



Boston Latin School ARGO

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Free

Ms. Kelley Named Head Master

By Meghann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

As I sat down with the Head Master, I felt very fortunate because I got a chance to speak with Ms. Kelley for the first time. I had the opportunity to find out some answers about the construction project and also her position on A.P. classes, College Admissions, and her goals for the Latin school.

Q: In general, are there any changes that you want to make this year?

A: I made some already. We now have a program director in Classics, and a new department chair in the visual and performing arts because Mr. Jackson retired. We had changes in staff due to retirements and because we have an annex we've had to expand a little bit. There's another change — the Boston Youth organization project would like to work on the area of bathrooms in the



building and institute a 'Respect Squad.'

Q: If Superintendent Payzant were to grant you one wish, besides having the construction over and done with (she laughs), what would it be?

A: In some respects it would be give me the wherewithal to run this building without all the rules and regulations and restrictions, especially in terms of the financial aspects. Give me my budget and let me hire people and let me provide the resources that the people need.

Q: There has been a concern among teachers and students about the size of A.P. classes. Can anything be done to improve those conditions?

A: There is a contractual ratio of the number of students to the number of teachers you're assigned in a building. I would love to have Advanced Placement courses that run around twenty, but the question then becomes 'At whose expense does that happen?' If I'm given a budget allocation and a ratio that I have to live with and A.P. courses are such a draw here that it's a hard decision to make.

Q: What will happen to the Guidance office and the Main office when the first floor is taken off-114-116. There will be just a small piece that will

not be taken off-line. Same thing with guidance on the other side of the corridor. The issue becomes that what I say now

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In Memoriam



Robert William Lee

Mr. Robert William Lee of the BLS Math Department passed away on October 16 at the age of 52. Loving husband, and father of three, Mr. Lee will be sorely missed by all members of the Boston Latin School Community. As a true professional and a man of integrity, character, and compassion, Mr. Lee's memory will live on in the hearts of the students whose lives he touched.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lee family at this difficult time, and we offer our most sincere condolences.

Students and Teachers Work Together at Annex

By Kathryn Cohen, I
STAFF WRITER

Normally the first week before school starts parents and students prepare for school by rushing to complete their summer reading, refurbishing their clothing supply and enjoying the last moments of the summer's heat and free-

dom. However this year parents and students could be found in their paintbrushes repairing the Mission Hill Grammar School for the arrival of the incoming sixes.

The school is the new dwelling place for members of class VI during the hectic reconstruction process that has been going on at BLS. It houses fifteen classrooms which are divided into three

cluster groups to make things more manageable and organized. The parents remain positive about the temporary quarters. Ellen Moy, mother and the new volunteer physician at the Grammar school exclaims, "It's a way for the new students to get to know each other better."

August was a chaotic month for the parent volunteers who were determined to make the Grammar School

presentable and welcoming for its September inhabitants. The Young Achievers, a youth group stationed in the school over the summer, moved out in mid August leaving little time for any major reconstruction. The volunteers were able to spray paint the floors and clean up the cafeteria within the first week of the

ANNEX, Page 12



Spaceman Cometh

By Sarah Dwyer, II & Tommy O'Malley, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

It's five thirty. People are already lined up around the corner of the Cheri movie theatre for a seven thirty show. Why all the fuss? It's the world premier of the new movie *American Beauty*. Kevin Spacey, one of the film's stars, is scheduled to be in attendance. As the clock winds closer to seven, the doors open and we are allowed in. Before the movie starts, they introduce all of the stars (except for Annette Benning who was unable to attend because an unexpected pregnancy). Then they announce Kevin. As he walks down the aisle, we are able to get a few snap-

SPACEY, Page 13

Editor's Note

By Ronaldo Rauseo -Ricupero
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Unlike past editor's notes, I am not going to complain about having to write in this space, nor lament about the bags under my eyes due to sleep deprivation. These things are not foreign to any Latin School student, and I do not have any particular insight as to warding them off.

However, I would like to share a little nugget-o-knowledge as to keeping informed about the Boston Latin School Community.

By the sincere generosity of the Boston Latin School Technology, led by Ms. Pagos of the Classics Department and Chuck Longfield of the Alumni Association, the school website was able

to purchase the WebEvent Software. This calendar program, used by other high schools such as Philips Academy, allows BLS to get organized.

All the events of all the different areas of the BLS community, including the athletics, academics, college counseling, alumni, nurses, parents, Saturday success school, technology, and student activities, will be able to be viewed by all members of the BLS community at a glance on an extremely user-friendly virtual calendar

Now, finally, there is a one-stop location for putting your finger on the pulse of BLS. The website posts times and locations of meetings, games, and events, with descriptions of each group that sponsor the event, directions to off-site locations, links to websites of

organizations of interests, links to the e-mail of those who head each group, and much more.

If you wish to submit an event to the calendar, please fill out a WebEvent Calendar Submission Form, which are available in the Main Office, and deposit it in the Student Government Basket on the main counter. Events are posted daily, and a link to the calendar can be found right on school site, at: <<http://bls.boston.k12.ma.us>>.

The BLS Argo web site is also now available! You can visit our home on the web at <<http://blsargo.cjb.net>> This web site will not only serve as an archive of Argo articles, but feature new, interactive content. Keep yourself informed... visit the Argo on the web!

Visit the Argo on the Internet at:
<<http://blsargo.cjb.net/>>.

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to <bls_argo@yahoo.com>, given to Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in 302, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the Main Office.

All students interested in working on the Argo should check the Daily Bulletin for the dates of individual department meetings.

To advertise in the Argo, please contact our business manager, Lisa DeBenedictis in 335.

Boston Latin School
Argo
Founded in 1970

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1996 Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition 3rd Place

1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents, and alumni. The expressions, suggestions, and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editor. The Argo reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

The Argo is produced as an extra-curricular activity. All typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Ask the Argo

Got a question you're just dying to ask? Got a burning desire to know? Well, just ask the Argo! Our multitudes of trained editors won't rest until we have the answer! Submit questions to any of our editors or email them to bls_argo@yahoo.com.

Who asks these questions?

No one, the editors have to make them up every issue.

How can I, the reader, submit a question for Ask the Argo?

Please type all questions and comments on an 8.5x11" sheet and send it to someone who cares.

What is the record for most RBI's by a single player in one game in a divisional series?

7 RBI's

How many letters are in this question?

31

Which NHL player holds the record for most goals scored in a single season?

Wayne Gretzsky, with 92 goals

Do starfish have brains?

No.

Does Mr. Contompasis still receive mail at BLS?

Yes.

What was the name of the first dog sent into space?

Laika, traveled aboard the second Sputnik mission.

Since the show's beginning, how many reappearing characters have died on the Simpsons?

Two, Dr. Marvin Monroe and Bleeding Gums Murphy.

What is the result when a horse is cross-bred with a donkey?

The mule.

Which one of the Argo Editors can attach her hands behind her back, fit her head through the space it creates under her elbow, then twist her arms from behind her to so that they are resting in a deviously pious praying position?

A&E Editor, Gina Cappelano, I

How long was longest Argo ever published?

36 pages

Which Boston Latin School administrator has had the highest achievement in the extreme sport of yo-yoism?

Mr. Malcom J. Flynn

How many headmasters has the Latin school had since its founding in 1635 A. D. ?

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News

A Sixie’s View of Life at the Annex

By Eugene Kreydin, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Latin class I asked the girl sitting next to me how to get to the Annex. Right after R7, I embarked upon the journey across Huntington Ave. After wandering in Mission Hill for about thirty minutes, I finally found an old little building that wore an all too familiar sign: “Boston Latin School.” I rang the bell and entered what sixies call their new BLS home and what everyone else calls “the Annex.”

Almost everyone who has a brother or a sister who just became a seventh-grader at BLS knows the alarming news about the Annex: no lockers. Besides the fact that the book bags that the sixies carry around the school weigh more than the sixies themselves, having to bring several four-pound books from home to school and vice-versa can be quite bad for your health. Thus my first question to Ms. Daniels, the teacher in charge of the Annex, was: “Is it true?” It is. The sixies do not have lockers. “It is one of the problems in this building,” says Ms. Daniels. However, the administrators and the teachers are doing everything possible to solve it. BLS has already issued two copies of several textbooks to the seventh graders; one to be kept at home. By the end of the month, it is planned that the second copy of books for various other subjects will be given out as well.

Usually, the sixies, all of whom are divided into “clusters,” just go across the hall from classroom to classroom. They rarely use the stairs, and when they do, it is only to get to the cafeteria, which also serves as a gym. The building is relatively small, but it is large enough for the relatively small number of students: 450.

This brings up another important aspect of the Annex: its personal nature. After I asked how the sixies are faring in the new building, Ms. Daniels replied: “All of us here are focused on them [the sixies], and them only. If one of them is having a problem, I immediately know

that and try to help. In the old building, we did not find out if a student was failing until after the report cards came out.” The network between the adults and the students in the Annex is much more personal than it is in the main building. Although this is a tremendous plus, there is some concern: “We are worried about their transition from the Annex to Louis Pasteur, where the environment is much less individual,” Ms. Daniels said.

However, the rules and the homework load that apply to everyone in the main building also apply to everyone at Mission Hill. Seventh-grade assemblies occur in the main building and detention is there as well. “We tell them this is not elementary school. Said Ms. Daniels, “We tell them that this is not elementary school. We tell them that it is Boston Latin. It is only that we are more nurturing.”

While security is a major issue for every school in the nation after the Columbine and Little Rock tragedies, it seems that this problem has been solved in Mission Hill. To enter the building during and after school hours, the visitor needs to be identified and confirmed by an administrator or a teacher. There is a video camera installed at each entrance, and the visitor’s image is displayed on a computer monitor in the office. Ms. Russo - better known as Barbara - spends most of the day in the Annex and goes back to the main building for tardy detention. The Annex’s small population allows for every unfamiliar face to be recognized.

We should not forget that BLS has been through construction before, when the new gym was added on. Mr. Tedeschi, who moved to the College of Arts fifteen years ago with the eighth and ninth grades, said, “We loved it. Because of the new atmosphere, the teachers were happier, and the students performed better.”

Let us all hope that the 1984 school year will repeat itself for the students and teachers of the Annex, and that they will have a happy and safe time in their new school.

JCL

Hang Do, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Calling all Latin lovers! There’s a new club in the school: the Junior Classical League! The JCL is a national club that is devoted to the Romans and Greeks, their beliefs, history, languages, and culture. If you love the ancient Romans and Greeks, or if you want to learn about them, JCL is just the club for you!

Do you like competition or enjoy answering questions? There is a team on the JCL called Certamen. Members of the Certamen study Roman/Greek mythology, history, language, and daily life in order to compete annually with other schools statewide and nationwide. If you know about these ancient civilizations, or are willing to learn about them, JCL is the club to join! It’s like a Latin Jeopardy team!

Other schools involved in Certamen and JCL include Lynn English High, Boston College High, Boston Latin Academy, BB&N, Wakefield High School, and others. We have a great Certamen team, so let’s show them our BLS spirit!

Every year, there are state and national conventions where students compete in academic, geographic, and athletic contests. Are you good at declamation? There’s even an English and Latin oratory contest!

If you go to the nationals, you’ll have the time of your life! Competition, fun, and making friends from all over the nation are the major themes. You will spend six days in another state. Even if you’re not going to the state or the national competition, you’ll have fun learning and doing activities about lost civilizations with JCL.

Since this is the first year that BLS will sponsor JCL, we hope it will be a successful one.

Our first meeting was on October 19, but you can still join! All classes are welcome. Look for flyers around the school to find out when our second meeting is. If you have any questions about JCL or any material presented here, contact me, Hang Do, in homeroom 223. You can also speak to our sponsor, Dr. Cohee of the Classics Department.



Mission Church Grammar School:
An Interview with Sister Vincent

By Lydia Brooks, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Tucked away on an old Boston back road, adjoined to the aesthetic Mission Church, there are two small brick buildings that make up an elementary school of the Catholic Faith: Mission Church Grammar School. Recently, the annex portion of the school has also become a temporary abode for the Boston Latin School seventh-graders due to construction requirements. Sister Vincent Ferrer, the principal of MCGS, kindly gave an interview to the Argo explaining the school she has served faithfully for seven years.



Argo (A): What is the history of the Mission Church Grammar School/Annex?

Sr. Vincent (SV): This school is called the Mission Church Grammar School because it is connected with the Mission Church and owned by the Redemptress Fathers of the Mission Basilica on Tremont Street. This building was formerly called the Guild Building and at one time was separated and not coed. Also, at one time, the enrollment was 2,000 students from the MCGS inside of our Annex.

My first year here we moved in our grades seven and eight and we began kindergarten. Therefore, by the time Young Achievers in Science & Math rented the MCGS annex, which had not been used for a few years, there was a lot of empty space.

A: Do you teach at all?

SV: No, I don’t have time. But I like being a principal [and] helping children to grow.

A: How do you like having the Boston Latin School students at the Annex?

SV: I love them! You don’t even know they are in the building; they are tremendous! Sometimes I see the MCGS students admiring them from a distance; [the BLS students] are modeling what we hope our children will some day arrive at.

A: What were your thoughts about the particular class that would be coming?

SV: I thought to myself how ener-

getic seventh graders are and that they would be coming from various schools, and then I concluded that this could be a troublesome group, so they probably would choose a group that would already be settled into “Latin training.” But the seventh graders are very well-behaved, and you can see the “Latin imprint” on them.

A: Did you have any worries about room for the entering class?

SV: I wasn’t really connected with that; the Pastor of the parish was in charge of that. I never had that kind of a worry, but I wanted the Annex to be nice for them if they were coming into our school building. I knew it wasn’t ready because the charter school was leaving. I wanted the building to be in a condition that a professional group of children could move into. Also, the charter school was delayed in moving out, so BLS was delayed in moving in.

A: Have you been thinking of any collaborative activities for the MCGS and BLS Annex community?

SV: We are; I think people in both schools are in agreement [about doing] something, maybe a celebratory event. They spoke about the Boston Latin School students helping the younger MCGS children through tutoring, which would be a great asset to us.

A: There have been hints that some parents are disappointed that their entering child would not be able to go to the Boston Latin School building itself. How do you feel about this?

SV: What I have heard from some of

the teachers is [that] parents are saying the students are very happy to be in the building by themselves, getting to know one another and the policies and practices of BLS. I think it is strengthening and not negative. They are not isolated. It is like a bonding.

A: Is there anything else you would like to add?

SV: I am very pleased with everything. I have met wonderful people in administration; the teachers and the maintainance are very respectful and extremely professional. It is a privilege.

A: Thank you, Sister Vincent.

Teacher Spotlights



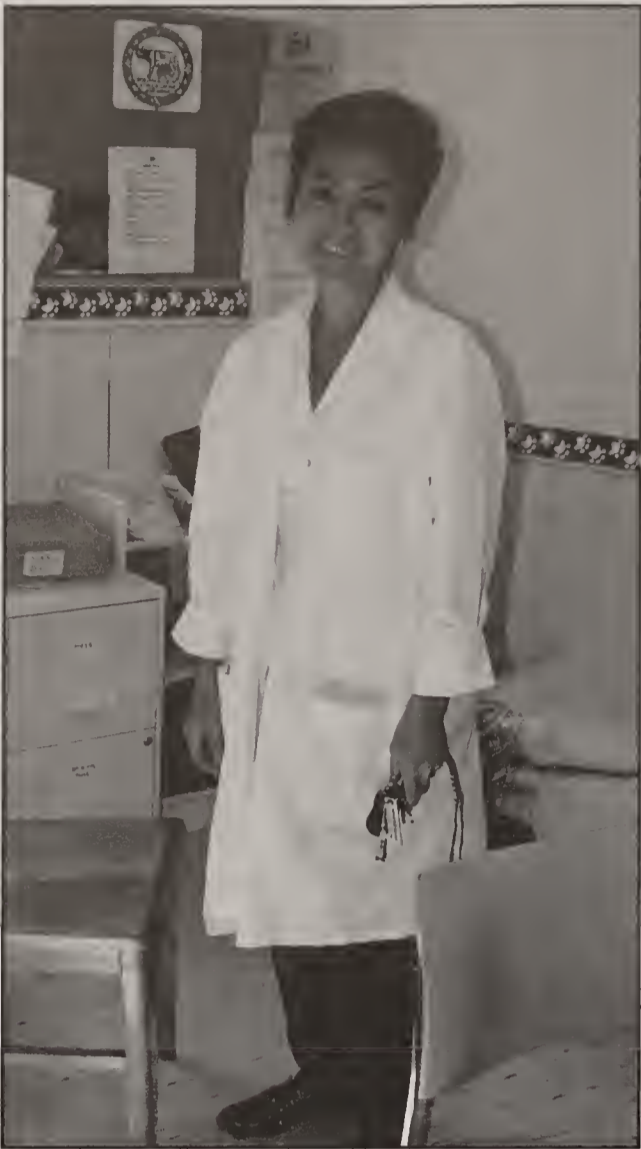
Ms. Skerritt

Subjects Taught: English and Reading Comprehension 7 (Annex)
Previous High School: BLS
Prior Teaching Experience: Teacher at U Penn; student teacher at University City School in West Philadelphia
Hobbies / Other Activities: Playing piano, eating, watching “Felicity” on WB
Hopes For BLS Students: “ I would love for the class of 2005 to be the first class that graduates every student that enters in grade seven.”
In Addition: If any upperclassmen have college questions they can come to Ms. Skerrit; especially if the questions concern UPENN



Ms. Teasedale

Subject Taught: Drama Teacher
Previous Schools Attended: Ontera High School, Union College, Harvard
In Addition: Head of Drama Club
Hopes For Her Students: She wants to expand children’s view of the arts and expose the differences and similarities between the different theater genres. She hopes to have several workshops for Drama Club.
Favorite Aspect of BLS: “Wonderful students!”
Favorite Quotation: “All things be ready if the mind be so.”



By Rogette Esteve, III
CONRTIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School has recently funded Ellen Moy Maniekis as the new part-time nurse of BLS’s Annex School. She is actually an alumna of the Boston Latin School, and was a member of the first all-female Latin School class. She graduated in 1978 and was very fond of her experience at Latin. According to Ms. Maniekis, there were not too many girls; one could say they were pioneers. “But,” she says, “the friends I met here are some of the dearest friends I have today.”

Today, she is an active member of both the Alumni Association and the Parent Teacher Association. She greatly enjoys her involvement with Latin and says she “has a strong bond with the school.”

School Nurses are often under appreciated, and Ms. Maiekis knows that her experience this year will be a challenge. However, she is greatly looking forward to spending time with Latin students she thinks are some of the greatest students in the world. She has already contributed the preparation of the Annex for the incoming of the Sixies. She helped to coordinate the cleanup and the immense number of volunteers that showed up to paint the building. She was greatly cheered at the number of volunteers that attended the day of Annex preparations, and is looking forward to a great year.



Mrs. Gribaudo

Subjects Taught: Mathematics (Annex)
Previous Schools Attended: Boston Latin Academy, Emmanuel College
Prior Teaching Experience: Blue Hills Vocation School; Canton, Mass. Student teaching with Ms. Mitchell another BLS math teacher
Hobbies: Photography and reading novels
Favorite Aspect of BLS: The talented students
Favorite Quotation: “ Do your best - you don’t have to get all A’s just to do your best.”



Antonio Ceneio

Subjects Taught: Algebra, Geometry, Statistics
Previous Schools Attended: Gil Eanes, Boston College, Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts
Favorite Aspects of Boston Latin: The outstanding students and faculty
Favorite Quote/Saying: “Education!, Education!, Education!” Education is one of the most essential substances in life
In Addition (Hopes Plans for this year): My goal is to reduce if not eliminate my fears in my students regarding (science), math and technology

Ms. Kelley cont. from page 1

could change tomorrow. That’s what the phasing is, it’s ever changing. We shift and we adjust because my first priority is that this is a school, and everything else has to fit around that.

Q : What will be done to accommodate the teams that need to use the lower gym?

A : Well that’s another area of ‘construction discomfort.’ Mr. Costello is working out a plan to address the issue of the needs of all of the teams. We’re looking into other spaces and trying to map out times so that we are equitable in the distribution of opportunities for all the teams.

Q : What will you say to students who come to ask you to help them out with College Admissions?

A : I say ‘I make phone calls, not miracles.’ In order for me to do that, you have to convince me. Show me what is on your portfolio, tell me what’s unique about you, and what I can say when I call and advocate on your behalf.

Q : What is your overall impression of Latin students?

A : I think the students at Latin school are absolutely terrific, without question. Does that mean I think they’re perfect? No, but I think that there’s a love of learning, a sense of maturity, a loyalty to the school, a support that goes on among the student body, the different student groups

here. One of the things I like about a large school is that there are friends for everybody in the school. And I would never want to think that anyone here feels isolated and disconnected. They rejoice in everybody else’s achievements and I think that’s a credit to the student body here. I also think it’s interesting that we have a student body that is reflective of the real world — different backgrounds, and they still maintain the focus that in order to be at Latin school, you have to do the work. I like that.

Q : Any final thoughts?

A : I want people to be very serious about what goes on here. The reputation of the school is extremely important to me. I want this school to be a national model for other schools, so that when people are looking at the best practices in education, they think of the Latin school as the pre-eminent public school in the nation. I really want the school to be the envy of the nation. That’s not going to happen overnight, but the name recognition is out there. That’s the kind of positive public awareness that I want, because it’s very easy to get press that will degenerate the school or disparage the students around here. I don’t want that at all, and you know I never want to have a Columbine situation. Safety and security are very important.

Diversity At Latin: Young Leaders of Color

By Andrea Armandt, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 25, 1999, Kadesha Malcom, with the help of Mr. Steve Fernandez of the Science department, put together a conference at Roxbury Community College to "maintain diversity in the exam schools." Some say there is much diversity in Boston Latin School. Kadesha, president and founder of Boston Latin School's newest extracurricular activity, Young Leaders of Color, is trying to encourage a larger percentage of minority admissions in Boston Latin School. Kadesha said the purpose of Young Leaders of Color is to "decrease drop-out rates and increase retention rates." She is not only doing this because the minority population decreases every year by a substantial percentage, but because every student, no matter what race he is, deserves a good education.

Said alumna Omekongo L. Dibinga at the conference, "We aren't looking for a hand-out. We need to make sure that our children just don't exceed on the school level, but much higher. Let's not beg, let's do for ourselves, and they will come begging us to be in Latin School." Since the racial quota was diminished a few years ago, the racial balance has just gotten steeper and steeper. Along with Dibinga on the panel were Terri Smalls (one of the first African-American females who entered this school), senior Eric Thai, junior Anetta Toledo, Class V member Asia Harris, and myself, projecting our thoughts and our personal experience to an overflowing lecture room. Will Young Leaders of Color be heeded? Will they be heard? Some say this is racism. But racism has gotten a new name: classism.

To get involved with Young Leaders of Color, contact Kadesha Malcom in homeroom 301.

Teaching Latin to Promote World Peace

By Zoe Liou, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"I teach Latin," said Dr. Cohee, "because I want world peace and a healthy environment." As the new head of the Classics department, Cohee brings to BLS a number of ideas about education which have been shaped by his experiences as a student, high school teacher, and college professor.

Dr. Cohee's interest in Latin began when he was twenty-five. He studied the language to become more familiar with the classical authors who influenced his favorite English poets (Jonson, Herrick, and Marvell). Since then, he has developed a particular interest in ancient Roman public religion, which is one of his current areas of research.

According to Dr. Cohee, the purpose of a classical education is "to teach people to be civilized." Education, he says, must be more than training for industry and technology "doodads."

"Generations have to be reared in a continuing culture of education," he explained. "They must understand why business and industry exist: to keep civilization going."

He finds that the education offered at schools like BLS is good preparation for such understanding, but comments that "the pace of BLS is in immediate contradiction to the stated purpose of BLS. We are trying to do too much for too many, too fast. Classics is supported to teach people to be civilized, but you cannot do that while having kids race like rats in a trap."

Cohee's plans for the Classics department reflect these views. He said, "I feel there is a danger that we are creating Type-A-CEOs, and who needs more of them?" He believes that the school has a chance to effect change, and said his role as an educator is "to continue tradition and, wherever necessary, to refresh and revitalize it; to use classics to convey cultural values to students."

He describes Latin students as 50 more serious than some other public school pupils, and comments that the halls of BLS have "not so much swearing—the average high school sounds like a room full of stand-up comedians, or a bad movie."

In his own spare time, which is scant, Cohee enjoys reading Sallust, the Roman historian, and the poet Horace.

Here at BLS, he can be found teaching Fourth-Year Latin and B-sie Latin.



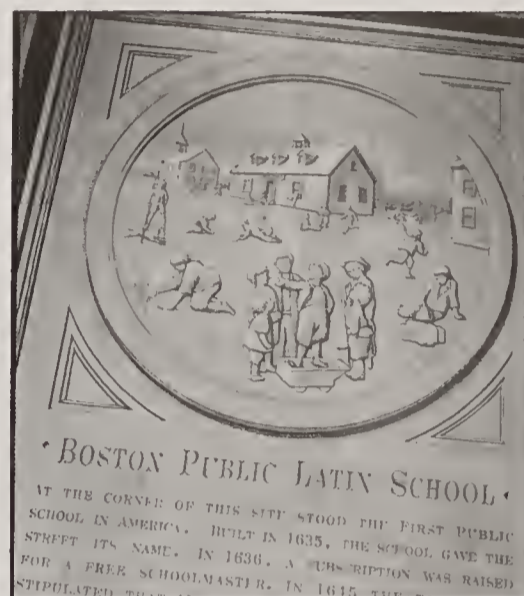
BLS History Uncovered

By Meg Winikates, I
NEWS EDITOR

In this year of turmoil, many pieces of Latin School history have resurfaced. This is not the first time the seniors have been on the third floor, for example, nor is the construction outside our windows the first addition to the building.

"There is no need for the seniors to be agitated about life on the third floor," Mr. Flynn assures. Until the mid-1960s, the seniors were always on the third floor. The Guidance Office was in 306 so that the seniors would be nearby. When Guidance moved to the first floor, so did the seniors. Thus, tradition being very important at Boston Latin, the seniors have now returned to their accustomed place.

Boston Latin has undergone no fewer than three incarnations in its present location, and is now embarking on the fourth. The original building, which extended from the front steps to room 137, was built in 1921 and 1922. In 1932, the back wall was removed and the classrooms from 136 to the end of the building were added. If one looks at the wall just before room 136, the change of brick, denoting the newer construction, is noticeable. There is also a black tile line in the floor marking the original wall. The second addition, built in 1988 and 1989, includes the larger gym, locker areas, and the turquoise staircases. However, the construction workers left the old wall intact, and it can be seen in the hallway on the first floor near the larger gym. The Corinthian column heads are also still in place. The statue that once stood on the 1930s back porch now stands beside the back parking lot, and will eventually be moved to a position in front of the new building.



School Site Council

By Suzanne Chan, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you ever heard of the School Site Council? Do you know what its role is in the school system? One may say, "Yes, I have heard of it. It is some sort of group that focuses on the school." That is true, but the School Site Council does more than that.

The School Site Council is a body that directs the school. Every school has a School Site Council. Seven teachers, seven parents, the headmaster, and a student representative from the Student Council constitute the School Site Council. The School Site Council makes decisions upon school issues. The headmaster must approve these decisions before they can be carried out.

Some of the important issues that the School Site Council deals with are the drafting of the School-Based Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and the administration of misdemeanor marks that are listed in the agenda book. The council determines the disciplinary actions for the violations of School Based Rules and the distribution of misdemeanor marks for different types of offenses.

As you may have noticed, the agenda book now includes a new section about cheating. The School Site Council specifies what is considered cheating because cheating at Boston Latin School is a major issue. The School Site Council is collaborating with the Academic Support Committee to approach this issue. They are focusing on this issue in the coming months.

The School Site Council also hires new staff for the school. You may have seen some new faces around already. Turn to the Teacher's Spotlight section of this newspaper to see for yourself.

Not only does the School Site Council focus on improving the academics in the school, it also focuses on the concerns of the nurses, who have been running short-handed. Because of the numerous visits to the nurses, there is a need to get more help. Last year, a letter was sent to the Boston Public Schools superintendent addressing this issue. The School Site Council also decided to hire a nurse for the annex. It is essential to employ more nurses for the well being of the students and faculty, as well as the nurses.

Another major issue that the School Site Council handles is the plan for the phasing of the school during the construction of a new building. Classes will move around throughout the school year.

A great deal of information about what is going on in the school can be learned from the School Site Council. It meets on the fourth Monday of every month in the evening. Any student, parent, or staff member may attend these meetings. Students can find out about many interesting things that concern them, including the issues of class rank versus grade point average, schedules, tardy policy, school dances, and more. If you cannot attend these meetings, you may review the meeting minutes that are distributed to each faculty staff member. As a member of the student body or faculty, it is important to be kept informed of school activities. The School Site Council is a great way to be involved.

I thank Mr. Flynn, Ms. Shevlin, and Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero for their time to inform me about the School Site Council.

The Music Department is Going to the Pitts

By Margaret Winikates, I
NEWS EDITOR

This year, the music department is moving to a new beat, provided by teacher/percussionist Paul J. Pitts. This is not the first time that the new head of the department has walked the “hallowed halls” of Boston Latin School. A BLS graduate from 1973, Mr. Pitts returns to us after several years of teaching at Oliver Ames in Easton and Nashoba Regional High School.

When asked about his plans for the music department, Mr. Pitts replied that he hopes to change things through “evolution, not revolution.” He wants to increase participation in the music program, and has already started by reorganizing and re-energizing the BLS Football (Pep) Band. Mr. Pitts hopes to make music at BLS have a reputation as outstanding as its academic reputation, and have it be competitive at a city, state, and eventually even national level. “With the best students in the city and a new music facility, why not?” Mr. Pitts asks.

As for the worries many of us harbored last year about the end of “Music Night,” we may now lay them all to rest. Mr. Pitts, after looking rather shocked at the question, replied that there would be a Music Night without doubt. In fact, the music program will

be adding a concert this year: on Wednesday the twenty-second of December, there will be a Christmas concert in the evening for the parents in addition to the stu-



dents’ concert the next day. “The students are awesome!” was Mr. Pitts’s prompt response to the question of his impressions of

the school. “This is the best place to teach—the kids are fantastic! Nowhere else do the students behave with so much decorum. In fact, some of these kids are too serious. My AP Music Theory kids really need to laugh more.” However, Mr. Pitts cautioned, the general level of musicianship needs some work. “Work plus desire ensures success,” and Mr. Pitts is sure his students have great potential.

In his career as a percussionist, Mr. Pitts has had “some pretty weird gigs.” Perhaps the oddest, he recalls, was an Esplanade Pops concert done for *This Old House*. A friend of his had written a percussion piece using tools and household appliances. Mr. Pitts ended up playing rhythm on a toilet. He related another bizarre experience playing a piece in a parade written for snare drums and blowtorches. “They were those really noisy acetylene blowtorches, and they were so bright that when we marched past, no one could see anything,” he recalled. Fortunately for the new music rooms, none of the pieces the bands will be playing require incendiary devices.

In his first few weeks at BLS Mr. Pitts has worked to improve the condition of the rental instruments, met with parent supporters of the music program, and taken steps to assist the Gospel Choir. Stay “tuned” for more “notes” from the Music Department!

BLS Thinking Caps Meet Suffolk Hard Hats

Lee J. Guo, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Strangers setting foot into the prestigious Boston Latin School can easily notice it, students who roam the hallways and classrooms are annoyed by it, and frantic school administrators are literally pulling their



hair out, strand by strand, over it! Yes, it’s Boston Latin School’s own version of the Big Dig! I am sure just about every individual of the student body has at one time or another wonder why the oldest school in America has suddenly embraced a desire to be “new!”

Just to get people’s blood flowing with zeal, the new add-on building will be bigger than the cur-

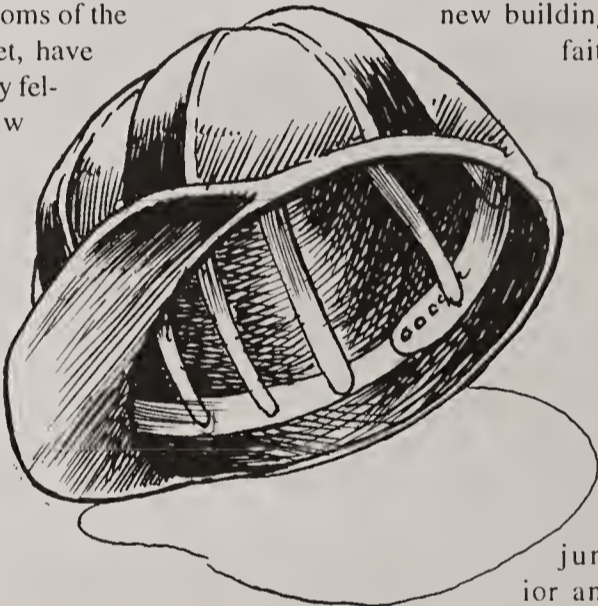
rent building. It will consist of three floors. In other words, once all construction is complete by the projected date, September of 2002, Boston Latin School will be officially more than twice as big! This may sound unimaginable to all of us right now, but by the beginning of September 2002 there will be enough room for everyone! Good-bye to crowded classes with thirty-some classmates, most of which you dislike, and most importantly adieu to the crowded hallways where shoulder meets shoulder in fierce combat!

“Yeah, yeah so we know the building will be bigger, but exactly how much?” you might ask. Well, I thought you would never ask! The first floor of the new building, which is pretty much on the same level of our current basement, will harbor the beloved cafeteria. The current cafeteria will be transformed into a library. For all you bookworms this is

great news because the new library will be much bigger than the current one. Surrounding the library will be a TV room, a computer room, and language rooms! The second floor of the new building will be dedicated to the musicians of Boston Latin School. It will have a secondary auditorium for small gatherings and orchestral practices. On the third floor of the new building there will be a visual arts studio. Sorry guys and girls, but I guess this means no third floor swimming pool for the 21st century, but a better chance in the 22nd.

Since the construction will not be totally finished until September of 2002, the class of 2001 will not have the pleasure and privilege to be the first

set of seniors to roam through all the hallways and rooms of the new building. Yet, have my fellow



junior and senior-to-be classmates for needless we shall be the first seniors to experience the new cafeteria, since it’s projected for completion by September of 2000! Yet all things come with a price, which is the possibility of being split up for homerooms, and even have new classrooms for some of our current classes by the time February Vacation ends. From the start of February Vacation to September of 2000, the renovation for the current building will take place all on the first floor, so it will be off-limits for to all except those in hard-hats.



Boston Latin School has endured the test of time for nearly four centuries, and as it steps into the next millennium of quality education, it wants to be ready to teach and educate students of the information age.



Education Reform

By Dana Xu, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Governor Paul Cellucci has dedicated himself to the improvement of our public schools. As mentioned in his 1998 State of the State address, his top priorities for the improvement of our schools will be to commit 90% of all education funding to the classroom; to hire 4,000 more teachers in order to achieve smaller class sizes; to provide unwavering support for the rigorous standards of the new curriculum frameworks; and to build character into the curriculum. According to Cellucci, these solutions will rejuvenate our schools and shape our children’s lives.

The MCAS standardized tests were implemented last year, with the completion of the seven-core academic curriculum framework. And as of this year, every student in the state will take this test in grades 4, 8, and 10 with high-stakes results. After an initial transition period, students who do not pass the 10th grade test will not be eligible to receive diplomas, and schools or districts with poor results will be held accountable.

Good news is Cellucci’s “ninety-ten” rule, which has promised that 90% of all education funds given to a school will be going directly into the classrooms. “For every new dollar we deliver to a school, they will have to spend a full ninety cents, and not a penny less, in the classroom, where it belongs and where it will produce results.”

Cellucci is also calling for character in our schools. To promote this he has promised to sponsor conferences to help teachers understand their roles as character educators. He has also promised to create a parent resource guide to assist parents in teaching children’s basic virtues. He has proposed the creation of professional development seminars for teachers to help them learn different methods of using literature and other subjects to incorporate character into everyday lessons. “Memorizing a list of good character traits is easy. Shaping your words and actions with good character is the challenge,” said Cellucci. “We will expect that students not only learn virtues, but also live by them.”

By the year 2000 the National Education goals call:

- for all children to start school ready to learn
- for the high school graduation rate to exceed 90%
- for all students to leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter;
- for our students to lead the world in mathematics and science achievement;
- for strong adult literacy;
- for safe schools;
- for strong teaching development programs;
- and for greater parental involvement and participation in educating their children.

Our governor intends to achieve these goals. Whether he will or not, I have the feeling that the best we can do is not to pray he succeeds, but rather that we survive.

New Clubs at BLS

Astronautics Space Aeronautics:

Space is as infinite as it is fascinating; this club is for anyone who is interested in any one of the many aspects of space. There will be activities and discussions to help you decide what you think of this topic. The next meeting will in homeroom 101. Contact: Lydia Brooks, 101

BLS Pro-Life Club:

There are many people out there in need, whether it is cash or love. The pro-life club helps you to develop respect for everyone around you and life itself. One of its current activities is a walk to raise money for single mothers and their children.

Contact: Mr. O’Malley, 211

FIRST Robotics Team:

In this club, you will get a chance to design and build robots as well as talk to real engineers. Their upcoming project is a regional competition, which could lead to the nationals. For more information, go to <http://www.coe.neu.edu/~nufirst/>

Contact: nufirst@coe.neu.edu M. Greaves (annex)

Martial Arts Club:

The martial arts club is a place where people can learn and practice self defense skills. Next big project will be the Asian Nights performance in April/May.

Contact: Sherar Andalcio, 101

Intramural Mock Trial Team:

Where you can be a witness or Lawyer or judge, etc. It is a place to learn and practice the law. Next meeting will be in 121. Contact: Gina Capellano, 337

Motion Picture Group:

It involves all aspects of filming. There are a wide range of choices to study, including producing, directing, etc. One of the things they are trying to achieve is a finished product. Contact: Alex Biename, 336

Music Association:

This club is for people who are interested in music and arts. Those individuals will have the opportunity to carry out various music or arts projects of their interest.

Contact: Ariana Barr, 032

Princeton Review:

The Princeton Review is here to help you prepare for the PSATs and the SATs. It is held on weekends in Newton and for more information go to <http://www.review.com/> Or contact: Feng Zhao

Rhythmology:

As inferred by the name, rhythmology is all about rhythm. This club will help you to learn about the art of rhythm-making. Contact: Lev Grossman-Spivak, 329

Wards Fellowship program:

This club is for juniors and seniors who want summer jobs. Mr. Dervan will conduct an interview, and you’ll be contacted. Contact: Kathryn Cohen, 337

Whiffle Ball Club:

For those of you wondering what whiffle ball is; it’s basically baseball with a plastic bat and ball. Meeting will be Wednesday, 211. Contact: Dan Viola, 332

Young Leaders of Color:

This club is designed to help younger students at the Boston public schools, to increase the participation of minorities, and to promote racial diversity at BLS and other private schools. Next meeting will be in homeroom 236. Contact: Kedesha Malcolm, 301

Science for Sophmores

By Megan Fountain, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Class III students were in for a shock last spring when they learned that a mandatory science course would take the place of their sophomore year elective. This year every sophomore student is required to take Physics I or Chemistry I. Last year sophomores had the options of taking a history class (American Studies or Facing History and Ourselves) or a language (Greek I or an additional Modern Languages) as an alternative to the science option.

The head of the science department and the science masters seem to be in agreement that the curriculum change was an administrative decision over which they had little control. They can only guess that the science mandate was adopted to equip tenth graders with chemistry and physics concepts that will be covered on the MCAS exams this spring. In addition, sophomores will have their graduation requirement for science fulfilled, and there will be no senior year scramble to squeeze in a science class.

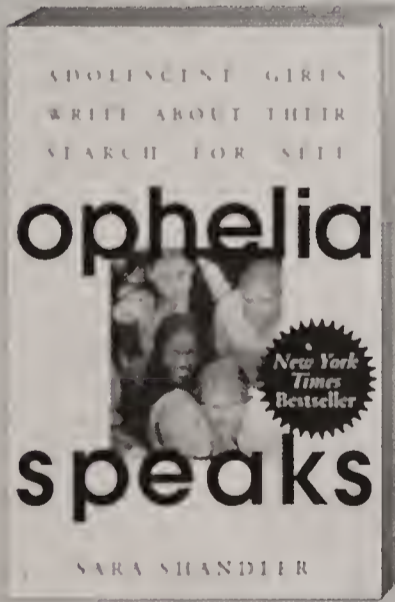
From the point of view of one physics teacher, Mr. Southwick, the sophomore science mandate is a big change for masters as well as students. There are 150 more physics students this year than there were last year—and there is no funding for more textbooks. In addition, the physics teachers must revise the content of their sophomore course. The original goal of the course was to prepare students for Physics II, but now the course must provide a more comprehensive overview of physics for those students who will move on to a history course next year.

Some students feel that their academic goals have been interrupted by the loss of choice. “I wanted to take first year Spanish this year so by the time I graduated I’d have five years of French and three years of Spanish,” says one disappointed student. Other students feel that having one less choice makes their life that much less complicated. Says Alison Damaskos, a sophomore, “I heard something about tracks and having to choose between science and history, and I’m glad I don’t have to make that decision.”

The bestselling book girls are talking about!

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DEPRESSION,
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s p e a k s

Ward Fellowship Program Makes Its Mark

By Irene Kopitov, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This summer, I was fortunate enough to work for Robert Turner, the assistant editor of the Editorial Page at the Boston Globe. The main focus of Mr. Turner's writing is local and international politics, although he has been working on a number of issues involving education, such as the MCAS testing and recent reform efforts in education. While I worked directly for him, the Editorial Page office staff included copy editors, columnists, secretaries, and other interns, all of whom provided valuable insight into the various stages that make up the process of making a newspaper.

My responsibilities included opening reader mail (primarily letters and opinion editorials), delivering mail and faxes, answering phones, typing letters into our database, and keeping daily archives of the Editorial Page accessible in the office. I also delivered a variety of newspapers to each member of the department every morning. I was also asked to do some re-

search on the upcoming expiration of teachers' contracts under the Boston Teachers Union and on the hiring of new teachers for the Boston Public Schools. Some of my work included speaking to the members of the school committee and learning about the new teacher Recruitment Plan.

Initially, I was somewhat disappointed because there was very little to do. There did not seem to be a real need for another



intern and I spent a few afternoons just sitting and reading without any work. But gradually, as the workload increased and I was given some more responsibilities, the job became more interesting and I felt like I was contributing something. However, the real benefit of the fellowship has been the opportunity to observe the inner workings of the newspaper and witness how it is put together.

Working at the Globe has also changed my outlook on politics and current events tremendously. One of the advantages

to working there was the constant exposure to the latest news, as well as frequent discussion and debate. As a result, I got into the habit of following current events, something I had not previously done. On my first day, I was able to sit in on a story conference, a daily meeting between the editorial writers and the editor in which new story ideas are brought up and assigned. I was really struck by how actively each person participated in the meeting, regardless whose story it was.

Meeting with the other Ward Fellow hosts was the best aspect of the program. Many of the hosts really contradicted a lot of my previous opinions of politicians. I was so impressed to see how down to earth and approachable they were. House Speaker Finneran and Judge Patti Saris were among the most impressive people we met. They were both di-

rect and honest about the positive and negative aspects of their jobs and gave the group a very comprehensive view of what they did. Others, like Governor Cellucci, who spoke to a large crowd of interns, and William Galvin, who sent his Chief-Of-Staff instead of meeting with us personally, were disappointing. For the most part, I was genuinely impressed with the people we met and am really grateful for my experience this summer.

Political Ploys at Massachusetts Youth Summit

By Thomas Imahiyero, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Monday, September 13, 1999 I and about 13 of my fellow seniors had the opportunity to attend the Massachusetts Youth Violence Summit: A Community Dialogue at Suffolk Law University. The focus of this summit, was to give students, school administrators, and those involved with education a chance to voice their ideas and suggestions on how we, as a state can decrease teen violence and prevent anything like another Columbine episode from occurring in this state. Several political notables attended this meeting, including Sen. Ted Kennedy, Gov. Paul Cellucci and our own mayor Thomas Menino. I didn't really know what to expect out of this summit. I mean with all those Big Wigs out there, I knew there was going to be some political jargon thrown around, but I was hoping that at some point we would actually get a chance to speak our minds and express whatever meaningless ideas we might have, to those who are in a position to cause significant changes to occur.

Well my premonition about legal jargon was confirmed in the first part of the summit. For about a three hour period (which was recorded by Court TV), we got to sit around and listen to our astute political leaders talk about the various political schemes and plans that they are implementing to try to curb teen violence. Several times they mentioned how it would be really nice if they had a chance to speak with teens and students and find out what our ideas were, meanwhile I sat there thinking, "well we're all here, and if you really want to listen, now would be a great time." True to form, at the end of this 3 hour political self-promotion session, there was a much anticipated 30 second question and answer session

in which about three people posed a couple of questions to the panel of political giants, and got answers which didn't really mean anything. Yet much to my pleasure, the second, less publicized part of the summit was actually much better.

After a short lunch (the highlight of the day), we split up into several smaller groups. At these sessions, there was a smaller panel of people who were also involved in the fight against teen violence. At my session, the panel included Bob Gittens, the Commissioner of DYS and a Boston School Committee Member. These people told us about the plans that they have been implementing, such as a system of social workers who work with police officers and parole officers, and are trained to respond to calls of domestic disputes that normally fall out of the juris-

diction of regular police officers. I thought that was great, because we all know if a kid has a fight at home, they can come to school with a lot of anger, and they might want to take it out by shooting all the minorities in their school. With this system, a trained person can actually follow up a dispute call and arbitrate between a parent and child to try and help resolve their problems. The process also doesn't have to be a one shot deal, it can continue over a period of years.

After this, we were able to discuss with this panel our ideas on how we think teen violence can be prevented. I offered my profound notion of student mentoring, a system set up in



schools where students can go to their fellow students, talk about their problems, and help each other decide the best course of action.

All in all, what you should really know about this summit was that there are people out there who truly care about trying to stop this disturbing trend of teen violence in our nation. For instance, the last and in my opinion best speaker of the day had a very strong message that it takes all of us to work together to solve his problem, and that if you're interested in getting involved, there are others out there who would be glad to help you.

Forum

GrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrR

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Bruce McKinnon sure is a great guy to donate one million dollars to either the Sports or the Arts at Boston Latin, but who should get it? After a careful weighing of the pros and cons of both sides, I can say, without bias or reservation, that the money would be much better spent on the struggling and most deserving Arts Department for three major reasons. First, sports already has more monetary and moral support from Boston Latin than the Arts. Secondly, everything that sports teaches students, the arts teach just as well, if not better. Finally, the arts are a necessary part of a student's education and are going to die out if not given more support.

The Sports Department at BLS is already in a better position than the struggling Arts Department. There are nearly twenty-five different sports teams at Boston Latin School (not including all the JV and Freshman teams). With few exceptions, these teams are all furnished with coaches, places to practice, transportation and, in some cases, equipment. By comparison, there is one theatre arts teacher, one art teacher and only a handful of music teachers. Even though gym is required for five out of six years at Boston Latin, students have only one required year of music, possibly one year of theatre (if the student is lucky), and two possible elective courses offered junior and senior year to a very small percentage of students.

One of the virtues commonly expounded by supporters of sports is the building of teamwork skills. They often question how one learns teamwork in the arts. The answer is everywhere. Students learn how to work as part of an ensemble in theatre and how to achieve balance and work harmoniously in orchestras, bands and choirs.

Proponents of sports often speak of the physical fitness that sports develop. Now, it is true that actors may not run laps in rehearsals, but theatre is all about movement and keeping oneself in good physical condition. For if one's vehicle of expression is in bad shape, how can one express oneself with it? Dancers are also in just as good physical condition as athletes, but Boston Latin has no outlets for dancers either. Also, the confidence one gains from sports is found tenfold in the arts. They expose students to public speaking and help them to develop communication skills, an ability crucial to any future career.

I am not the only one who recognizes the importance of the arts in high school. In fact, the board of accreditors who visited Boston Latin recently also realized the appalling lack of arts at our school. Part of the reason Boston Latin nearly lost its accreditation is the neglect suffered by our small Arts Department.

Yet the most important aspect of education and growth that the arts supply in abundance (and sports does not provide) is exposure to culture. The arts elevate the mind in the same fashion that an advanced English or History class will, but in an exciting, nurturing, and personal environment. Theatre students become acquainted with literature ranging from Sophocles to Shakespeare to Wilde. Art students study the works of Roman architects, Renaissance sculptors, and Impressionist painters. Music students appreciate Gregorian chants, Mozart's operas, and Italian concertos. They learn to identify and understand different aspects of human nature through their medium, as well as express their own ideas and passions through their art.

Yet the fact still remains that none of this can happen without money, and the arts at Boston Latin School do not have nearly enough of it.

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

If my main man Bruce were so kind as to give our school a million-dollar grant, the money should go to the sports programs. Our student body is full of athletically talented kids. Considering the success of the majority of the BLS teams, adding solid fields and facilities would only enhance the productivity of the teams as well as the overall enjoyment of the sports.

Competing in the Dual County League means that BLS teams face off against some of the best and wealthiest schools in the state. The students at those schools have facilities that Latin athletes can only dream of at their disposal: sprawling fields and huge weight rooms. They have top-notch equipment available for every sport. At BLS, we simply do not possess the funds or the space to make those dreams a reality. A million-dollar grant would enable us to have many of those facilities, which we so desire.

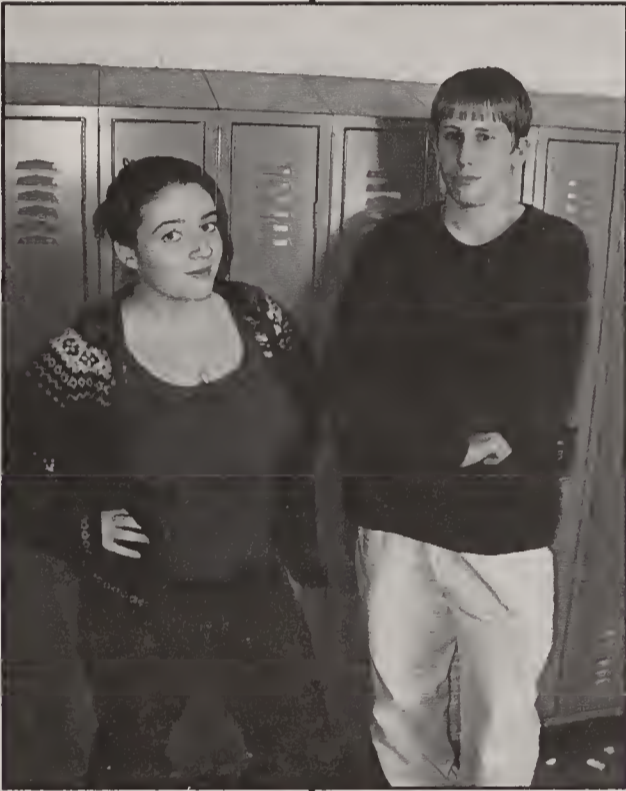
As I stated above, space is a huge problem at BLS. With the construction currently taking place, the issue of space has become an even bigger concern. One of the major problems is that the physical education classes and the football team have permanently lost a place to play and practice. Even before the construction began, that "field" was not exactly a pleasant place to play. The same goes for the off-campus fields that many of the other teams call home. Daisy Field, White Stadium, and Roberto Clemente Field, to name a few, are not ideal places to play. Many times those off-campus fields have no grass, are covered with broken glass, and/or

have early Christmas presents from our canine friends littered all over the playing area. Those places, however, are the only options since the school has no fields of its own. A million-dollar grant could be used to buy a large parcel of land within city boundaries to build fields upon. Even if the fields were not within walking distance of the school, student-athletes would be more than happy to take a bus to them if they knew they were top-notch facilities. A swimming pool could also be built for the swim team. A new facility like this would allow us students never to hear over the PA system about the swim team bus in the afternoon ever again. Those facilities would greatly improve practices for the teams as well as give them a true home field to play on.

Now my colleague Gina argues that arts should get the money over sports. She is correct in saying that arts are overlooked at Latin. That is a fact. It is also true that sports are the most popular and important extracurricular activity at our school, and at just about all high schools. Because of the large number of teams, sports need the most funding of any extracurricular activity. The arts are important but simply do not warrant nor need the type of funding that the sports programs so desperately need to function. The funding needed to build first class facilities, as well as to keep the teams functioning, dwarfs any type of funding that arts would need.

With much of the school's money dedicated to the new addition, it is not fair to expect much funding to become available for the sports programs. Therefore if the school were ever to receive a large monetary grant, the sports program is without a doubt one of the areas that deserves the money the most. Student-athletes would finally be able to realize their dream of sprawling fields and large pools to flock to after a grueling day of learning. Not only would the success of the teams increase above its present high level, but also the student athletes would enjoy the sports they already love much more.

HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION:
Alumnus Bruce McKinnon wins the lottery and decides to donate "\$1 MILLION" to Boston Latin School. Who gets it: Arts or Sports?



Forum Question:

Should Massachusetts rank schools by their MCAS scores?



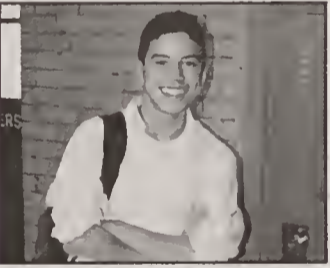
No, because MCAS is so new that not many students took the test seriously, and that affects the scores. Also, not all the bugs have been worked out of the system yet.
- Dave Esposito, I



No, because the MCAS does not reflect on a student's ability to do well in school or on their general intelligence.
- Kira Powell, II



No, because the things that they test on the MCAS aren't always the curriculum of the schools. It's not fair to rank schools at the start of a new test.
- Arianne Bunnell, III



Yes, because it is the school's responsibility to teach students what is on the MCAS.
- Chris Gonzoles, IV



Yes, because the MCAS is a good reflection of a school's ability to teach students.
- An Tran, V



Yes, because there should be an exam to prove whether or not a student is capable of promotion to the next grade.
- Louis Harris, VI

Family Survey of Teaching Practices

PRO

By Rebecca Tumposky, II
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Toward the end of last year, the Boston Latin School Parent Council mailed out teacher evaluations to the families of all 2400 students here at BLS. The results were recently distributed, causing much controversy among the faculty. According to Robert Tumposky, (yes, related), the chair of the Academic Issues Committee of the Parent Council, the purpose of the questionnaires is to provide a safe format for students and

“Students and parents deserve to be able to voice their concerns...”

parents to voice their educational concerns, to stimulate a more general discussion of teacher evaluations at BLS, as well as at all other Boston Public Schools, and to give constructive criticism and feedback to teachers. They are also meant to provide information for the BLS administration about what (or who) is or is not working.

Teacher evaluations are a particularly important issue right now because the Boston Teachers Union’s contract is under negotiation with the School Department. Improving the procedure of evaluations may require changes in union contract language with regard to the consequences of negative evaluations. Presently, there are very few consequences to teachers with tenure who receive poor evaluations.

Naturally, the entire concept of evaluations has been a source of much disagreement among the faculty at BLS. Some teachers believe that these evaluations are just another format for illegitimate negativity from the student body and its parents, and that the teachers are yet again going to be “bashed.” They believe that the majority of the students who take the time to fill out the evaluations will only offer negative commen-

tary, and that any necessary feedback needed should be given to them by their supervisors.

Another concern among the teachers is that the data are not representative, since the required number of evaluations for each teacher is a mere 15 (out of the teacher’s 150 students). “The reasons behind doing the evaluations are understandable, but due to the small amount of data on which they are based, it seems like the conclusions drawn don’t necessarily match the reality,” says Ms. Palmer of the English Department.

While these concerns are valid, everyone must remember that these evaluations represent one of the first attempts of this kind of survey in Boston. Only a certain percentage of the students bothered to fill out and return the surveys, and the Parent Council had to go with the numbers they had. Some 50 teachers were actually excluded from the survey due to lack of data

Anecdotally, the results for each teacher seem to reflect the general perception of him or her, with a few exceptions. It’s pretty much common knowledge among the student body which teachers do their job well, and which don’t. What can’t accurately be drawn from the surveys is whether one teacher is a little better than another. The results do give a general representation and evaluation of each teacher.

There are still other teachers who are pleased by the evaluations. They believe they are a great way to give well-deserved positive feedback to teachers. One teacher even bought extra copies to show off to family and friends. They can also be viewed as a method of constructive criticism for any teacher who chooses to see them that way.

Students and parents deserve to be able to voice their concerns so that the administration can do whatever is possible to improve our educational experience. Teacher evaluations are an appropriate way to do this. Although a better representation of the BLS student body is needed before the evaluations can be more accurate, the concept is great, and the intention is noble. It’s about time someone started asking the students what can be done to improve their education.

CON

By Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At the first parent Open House, the School Parent Council released its Family Survey of Teaching Practices at a charge of \$ 1. 00 per copy.

Having read the report, I was disappointed that it was released at this time, mainly because it draws inconclusive evidence from too small a pool of participants. On the average, BLS teachers have approximately 150 students each (an amazing feat for which they deserve all due kudos and respect). The highest number of responses in the survey ranged only from 15 to 31 (with an exception of a 38). This means that for most teachers, less than 1/5 of their students contributed to their “score” as a professional, and that is simply not fair. I would be pretty upset if a teacher randomly selected 1/5 of my tests and based my course grade on that. I may be lucky and have my top tests picked, or be unlucky, and have my lowest five picked. Either way, it is not an accurate picture of my performance, which is the true goal of any assessment or review, I believe, including this poll.

Last week in statistics class, we learned about the dangers of voluntary response surveys. For the most part they are, as I believe is true in this case, unfair representations of extreme views of a given topic, and show the opinion of only those who had strong enough feelings to participate in the survey in the first place. Because of this, they do not adequately reflect the views of the total population that is being studied.

I wish that the report would have been kept on hold until at least 1/3 of each teacher’s students had responded. It would have been a more accurate survey, and contributed to the overall integrity of the publication, which is not seen as very useful at this point. The report had the potential to be a good first step toward meaningful dialogue about the standards to which we hold our students and teachers, but at this point, I do not think that it provides very much useful data.

As a concept, however, I am in favor of improving the mechanism for assessment of teachers, and am working on Bill H3452 in the State Legisla-

ture, “An Act Providing for a System of Student Assessment of Courses,” which would allow students to fill out a standard evaluation on the course. The Massachusetts Teacher’s Association, The Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, the Massachusetts Board of Education, The Massachusetts Department of Education, and the Massachusetts State Student Advisory Council (the group which I am representing), will come together to write a standardized form that will be passed out at the end of each course given in the Commonwealth’s public schools. Students will fill out the rubric for the course, and sign their names.

The survey that I am working on would be for each individual class. This gives us more information. The results may show, for example, that the teacher is wonderful at teaching Calculus AP BC, but may not have such successful methods for his Pre-Algebra course, which would be more helpful to Department Heads. My ultimate hope is that it will allow departments to better pinpoint where, according to the student view, the need for professional development, and more constructively utilize that time.

As far as the current form of the BLS Survey is concerned, I still believe that the number of responses was too small, because, especially when asking the question of equal treatment, all the kinds of people who are receiving the treatment must be fairly and proportionately represented in order to have a fair determination whether the equal treatment applies to all groups. The survey did not achieve this. I think that while the survey was very thorough, it may have been too time-consuming for some parents to complete in “sixticate”. I am sure that this is something that the committee wrestled with this year. Maybe trying a smaller survey next year and seeing if the response increases may be helpful.

I think that the survey was performed with good intentions, but I think that on the whole we must be more careful when we know that the results have an impact on the BLS community and on the perceived reputations of a faculty who rival that of many universities in their knowledge of their fields, professionalism, and, of course, work loads.

The Fateful Choice: Clubs vs. Sports

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

Extra-curricular activities are one of the defining aspects of our high school careers. This is the one area where we, as students, seemingly have complete control. It is up to us to decide which activities interest us and what types of people we want to spend our after-school hours with. We are given a wide range of choices, including everything from golf to the Bible Club to concert choir. But do we really have as much control as we think?

Extra-curricular activities can be separated into two major categories: sports and clubs. BLS offers 25 different sports teams spanning the three seasons. BLS also offers 58 different clubs or musical groups. Clubs and sports both require an incredible amount of commitment. Most sports teams re-

quire students to attend daily practices for a period of at least two months. Most clubs require that their members attend meetings at least once every two weeks, along with participation in activities which advocate the club’s purpose. Some clubs require much more of a time commitment. If a student is required to attend a daily sports practice in order to ensure his or her place on the team, how can a student possibly attend weekly or bi-weekly meetings for his or her club or clubs of choice? And is it fair to the non-athletes within the club for certain members to retain their membership after several months of sporadic attendance? It seems that students must make a choice: clubs or sports?

It is true that there are many students within the school who are both athletes and club members, but are both areas receiving the commitment they deserve? Is it fair to a club if one of

their officers attends only 15 minutes of every meeting to make sure they are not too late to a baseball practice all spring? Or is it fair to a team if its captain only attends half a practice once a week the entire season? Is it fair to the kid who has to give up being a captain or being a club officer because he knows he has other serious commitments?

It is understandable for coaches to want all their players at every practice, on time, giving 100%. Every coach and every team wants a winning season, and the only way to truly achieve this is if every player commits completely. It is also understandable for club advisors and officers to want all their members at every meeting. Clubs only meet once every week or two weeks, and it seems essential to have all members who are truly interested in participating at each of these meetings. Otherwise, there is no knowing how these members feel

about certain issues or whether they can participate in certain activities. But is it reasonable?

Clubs seem to suffer the most. Coaches can threaten players with less playing time or even the loss of a seat on the team. Most clubs allow members to attend meetings via other members. Miss a practice, and you won’t play in the next game. Miss a meeting, and you can still be filled in later. Of course this gets more complicated as one joins more clubs. Most people have more than one interest so this is a common situation.

There are many factors included in choosing extra-curricular activities. Different sports and different clubs have different rules. But for at least a few months out of every year, if students want to play sports, they have a decision to make: clubs or sports? It is understandable, but is it reasonable?

Prevention vs. Paranoia

By Andrew Barr, II
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Like a cloud of smoke twisting in the wind, America's view on drugs is subtly changing. In 1987, the average age of the first-time marijuana user was 17.8 years. In 1996 it was 13.5 years. In 1991, 40.4% of eighth graders felt that using marijuana once or twice was dangerous. By 1996, that number had fallen to 27.9%. It is obvious that marijuana use is becoming more and more accepted, especially among America's youth. A reasoned, rational argument could be made that recreational drug use no longer needs and is less able to be controlled by laws and regulations.

"Reasoned" and "rational" were not the words that came to mind last month on Boston Common. The "Hemp Fest" was drenched in a thick, hazy cloud and lots of somewhat incoherent rhetoric about the need for marijuana to be legalized. It is pretty tough to make a convincing political argument under the influence of a mind-altering chemical, and this ineffectiveness showed. Ironically, over seventy people were arrested for doing the very thing they were asking for the right to do.

And so it goes. The argument over the future of America's drug policy, which could be a debate about medicine, legal theory, and cost-effectiveness, goes up in a cloud of smoke. Recreational drug use will, and should, remain illegal. Simply put, it is dangerous. Like alcohol intoxication, marijuana intoxication impairs reading comprehension, memory, speech, problem-solving ability, and reaction time. This creates a problem not only for the user but for anyone in the next lane on the highway, anyone on a plane flown by someone who smokes marijuana, anyone who comes into contact with

someone under influence. Chronic marijuana users are said to develop an "amotivational syndrome" characterized by passivity, decreased motivation, and preoccupation with drug taking. Sure! Let's make this easier to obtain and legal to use!

A popular argument is that marijuana use would decline if it were legalized. After much careful consideration, I have realized that this is utter nonsense. Who is responsible for the upturn in marijuana use? (Hint: See the first paragraph of this article!) Kids are trying marijuana because they think



smoking pot is OK. The numbers say it all: 71% of eighth graders think it is safe to use marijuana once or twice. What kind of message are we sending by legalizing stuff? By acknowledging that the drug laws are stiff and clunky, must we also agree that pot is a benign substance? Would fewer adults pick up a package of weed at the liquor store than through a guy under the overpass? The only thing that would decrease if pot were legalized is awareness of its dangers.

Unfortunately, this cry for across-the-board legalization muddies the waters surrounding such issues as the potential medical uses for marijuana. Marijuana has been shown to aid in the treatment of glaucoma and has proven effective as a pain reliever for sufferers of terminal and chronic diseases. Further research should be done to identify

and develop possible medicinal uses.

But what about the college student who keeps cannabis plant on his balcony? What about the abstract artist who creates his best work after a joint? What about Cypress Hill? What's wrong with occasional, recreational use of drugs by a legal adult?

In and of itself, absolutely nothing. What you choose to do to your own body is, in the end, your own business. And it is true that the prisons are filled with college students, abstract artists, and, probably, several members of Cypress Hill, who have been imprisoned for a first offense. Even more impressive would be the list of people not in prison who have committed the same crime. Presidents. Presidential candidates. More than a few people who are reading this article. There is one argument for legalizing marijuana: everyone does it anyway.

This does not mean, however, that the law should be stricken. What does it say about our country if we move in the direction of fewer controls on dangerous substances? What does it say about us, that we cannot abide by a law formed by the government we elected? What does it say about us that, on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, the Boston Common was filled with people peacably assembling to ask for the right... to get stoned?

The problem is the inconsistency in enforcement of the law among infrequent recreational users. So here is what I propose: Lighten sentences on the first-time recreational offenders. Continue to study the long-term negative effects and medical benefits of marijuana. Continue to crack down on producers and dealers of illegal drugs. And, most importantly, concentrate on finding the root of America's drug problem. Do not give up simply because it is not easy.

Cheating

Krissy Nguyen, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Unfortunately cheating does exist at the famous and prestigious Boston Latin School. For many stressed-out students, cheating is a reliable way to do less work and answer to greater academic demands. It seems that cheating is one of the biggest recurring problems at BLS. However, this issue is often ignored and needs to be further addressed.

There are many reasons why students cheat. According to a study from the American Psychological Association, "Classrooms that emphasize high grades and test scores may drive students to cheat." This situation is undeniably similar to the atmosphere at BLS. Unlike the average high school, BLS offers numerous Honors and AP classes. These classes emphasize the importance of getting high grades, and the student must work very hard to excel in them. At the same time, these classes contribute greatly to students' stress levels. As one becomes an upperclassman, competitiveness kicks in more than ever. Class rank becomes a major factor in determining how well one is doing relative to one's peers. It can be concluded that one rationale for cheating is the need to stay in the top part of one's class.

Teachers at BLS have conflicting stances on the subject of cheating. Some teachers rarely catch their students cheating, while others have detection down to a science. Those who do recognize the problem do not necessarily believe that it is caused by Boston Latin's high standards. Other factors that could contribute to cheating include the lack of time students have to spend on their homework (due to time-consuming extra-curricular activities or after-school jobs). While some teachers trust their students not to cheat, others believe that the problem is not only present, but continues to increase over the years.

So what can we do as members of the BLS community to resolve this cheating issue? Will students finally realize that cheating is wrong? Probably not, but we do have the power to improve the student body by increasing the disadvantages of cheating. If one decides to cheat, one must learn to deal with the potentially embarrassing consequences of getting caught. After all, cheating does imply that one is not smart or focused enough to keep up with one's work. Our school demands the best from students, not only in academic areas, but in conduct as well. Cheating is a shameful practice that must be eliminated.

my list, I come to the conclusion that being on top of the BLS world isn't so bad, which is a terrible problem: complaining is a BLS senior tradition. All we have left to complain about is having to pick up our own trash at lunch, and the lack of students wearing Puma sneakers (Bring 'em back, please!). Maybe we should be more grateful.

Seniors on the Third Floor

By Matt Hogan, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we all know by now, the Class of 2000 homerooms have been moved up two floors and shifted to the other side of the school because of the ongoing construction process. The reactions from seniors have been varied: everything from, "It's wicked hot up here!" to, "What's that smell?" to, "Finally, a floor all to ourselves!" Even Ms. Kelley noted at the recent senior assembly that, decades ago, Class 1 (which at that time was also located on the third floor) viewed this scenario as a "senior privilege."

So, in the long run (or at least for this

year), will being on the third floor have a greater positive or negative effect on Class 1? Both types of repercussions are likely.

For one thing, this will effectively eliminate senior lethargy. Imagine how much endurance seniors will gain from the trek up the stairs at 7:20 in the morning! We'll gain discipline, too, with a certain member of the science department making sure we're in class when the bell rings. The isolation could be a boon as well. The increased elbow room leaves more space to play wiffleball. Also, seniors will be far

less burdened by awestruck sixties seeking autographs or Jedi training, seeing as we have the whole floor to ourselves, and the sixties are in another building entirely.

Unfortunately, being on top also has its drawbacks. There is that certain member of the science department making sure we're in class when the bell rings. Yes, this was on the list of pros, but it can be viewed as either, depending on a senior's maturity. Few seniors have third-floor classes, leading to an awful lot of stair climbing to get to lockers. The third floor rooms get pretty sticky when they're hot, although with cold weather approaching, this is becoming less of a problem. What is becoming more of a problem is the peculiar set of odors best summed up as science. Sleep-deprived seniors are far more likely to fall down the stairs or pass out from the bizarre smells, possibly leading to lawsuits and more TV coverage. Plus, the third floor is where the computer crises occur (seemingly daily). We're always the first to hear about them, and we're always the last to care.

As I ponder



Summer Events

By Justina Wong, I
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This summer and in the recent news, we have been bombarded with an insurmountable amount of devastation and tragedy. We have become familiar with names such as Kosovo, East Timor, Turkey, Taiwan, and Chechnya as well as countless others. The coverage of these terrible events is dramatized on the news, debated on the radio, headlined in the newspapers, sprawled on magazine covers, reported on websites, and basically plastered all around us. But how does this saturation of tragedy in the media affect us personally? Do we forget about those images once the media stops coverage? Or do we recognize and learn from these stories to be compassionate, watchful, or at least aware? Hopefully, we have become individuals in society that care about others. I only fear that in BLS we learn to be too wrapped up with our own lives that we forget about others. The environment that surrounds us is one in which the

excellence of the *individual* is stressed, competitive drive pervades our entire academic life, and success is achieved through hard work and commitment. Will this atmosphere result in the lack of awareness of others? Will we ignore what is going on around us and what is happening to others? We should not and can not.

For many, these tragedies have been a rude awakening. The brutality and chaos in Kosovo and East Timor has shocked the world, even though the violence there have been going on for a long time. However, it has remained hidden from the public eye. For example, more than 250,000 people have died since Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in 1975. The "cleansing" and oppression of Albanians have been progressing for years. All we have learned or have chosen to learn has been unbelievable. But what is more unbelievable is what we do not know or rather what we do not hear about. The international community and the United States have taken action to help these crises. However, this is far

from over, even if coverage is fading in the news. The horror has not yet been fully exposed. The number of fatalities has not been completely totaled and the full extent of the atrocities have not yet been discovered. There are still mass graves to be exhumed, reports to be made, charges against individuals to be brought forth, and trials to be conducted. There is still much work. To our utter disbelief, the statistics of murders, rapes, displacements, and individual recounts of brutality and corruption speak for themselves.

Not only has mankind caused destruction, but nature has humbled us. Even with all our advanced technology and expanding wealth, nature is still overwhelmingly powerful. We have witnessed hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, floods, and other natural disasters wipe away material objects and take lives. Recently, earthquakes in Turkey, Greece, and Taiwan have wreaked absolute havoc and chaos. Most of us are unable to relate to those who have lost everything. In our spoiled lives, we have no

idea how it feels to have nothing but the clothes on our backs. My mother tried to call her relatives and friends in Taiwan, hoping that someone would pick up on the other line. Nature makes us unconsciously reevaluate what is most important in our lives because as evidenced clothes, homes, cars, and other material objects can be completely wiped out.

The incredible tragedy prevalent in the world should teach all of us a lesson. We should remember those less fortunate than us and be grateful with what we have, instead of constantly wanting more. This is not preaching that everyone *must* care and actually *do* something, but at least we should be aware. There should be no indifference about life. We have to be mindful of one another, take that extra second to say "hello" in the hallway, or help someone out with a problem. There is missing an emphasis on unity, on helping one another and caring about one another. Each life is precious. We should appreciate the time we have here and notice each other more.

Sixies Have Mixed Feelings About the Annex

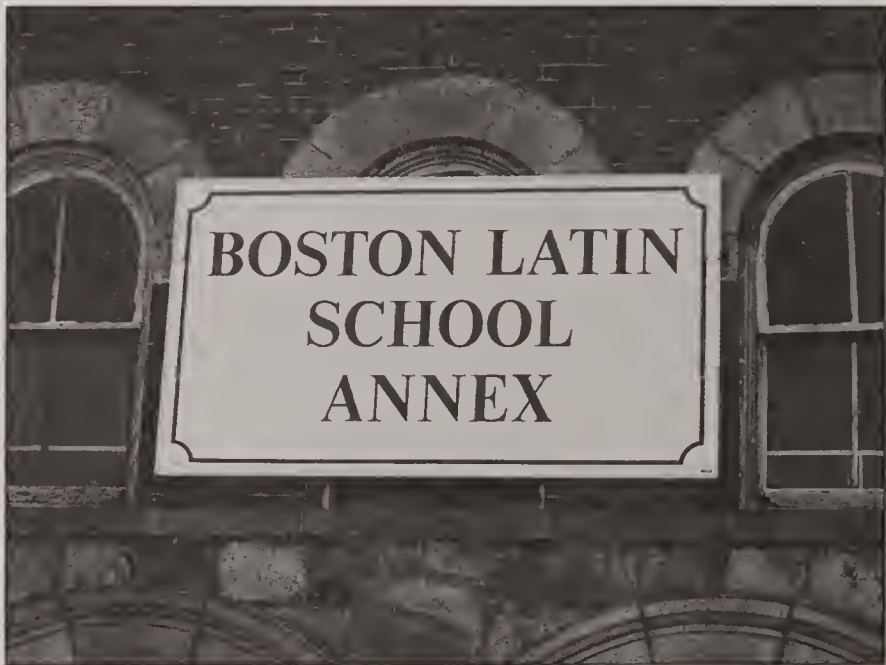
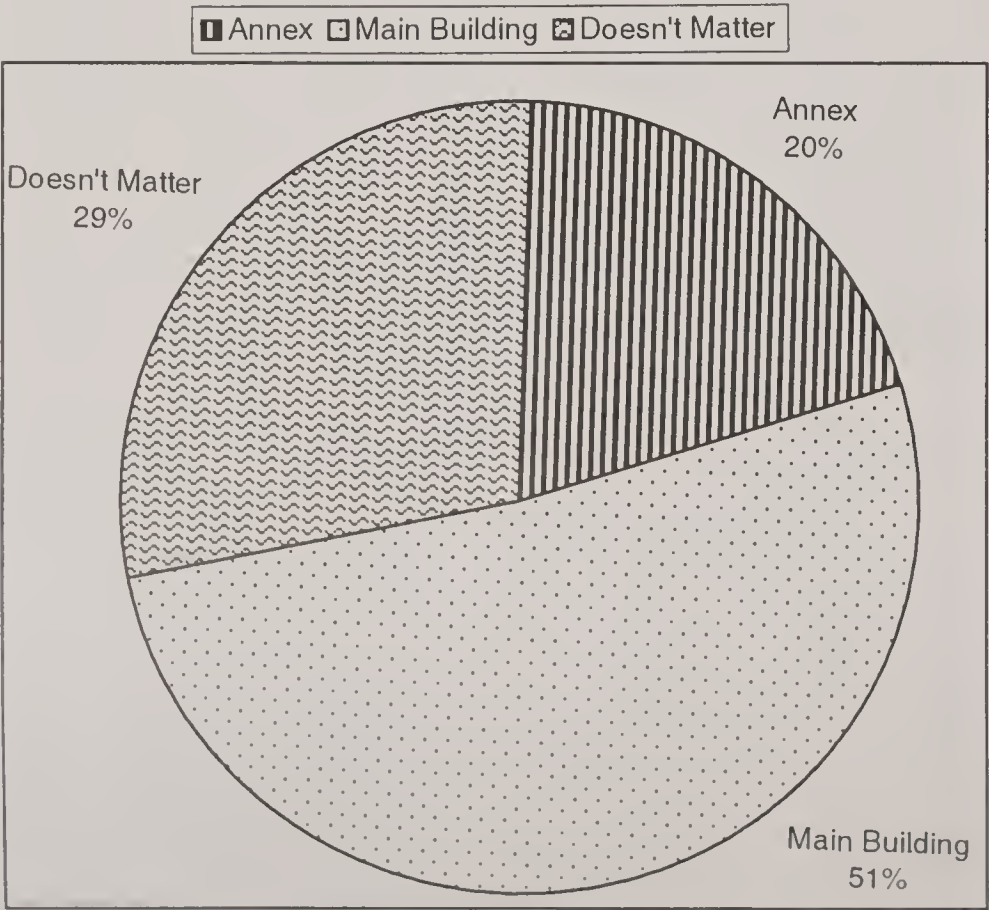


By Andrew Barr, II
Assistant Forum Editor

This year, Class VI is spending its first year at BLS away from BLS. The sixies are being housed in the BLS Annex, located at the Mission Grammar School on St. Alphonsus St. This decision was made by the administration in the wake of massive construction at the main building. What do the members of Class VI think about this controversial maneuver? The Argo asked 392 members of Class VI.

The results seem to indicate a yearning for the company of Classes I-V. Over half the sixies surveyed said they would prefer to go to school in the main building with the rest of the student body. One student wrote, "I have more friends there!" About a quarter of the students surveyed were happy with their Annex experience. As one wrote, "Give us a snack line at lunch and I'll be happy." And, perhaps predictably, almost a third of those surveyed did not indicate a preference. Many sixies seem to feel that their Latin School experience will be unaffected by this temporary relocation.

Sixie Preference



A Little Elbow Grease Goes a Long Way at the Annex

KELLEY
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Young Achievers' departure.

The parents were the driving force behind all the progress. They organized a painting session for students and other volunteers for the week of September 1, in hopes of completing the job before school started. Charlie Kelly of the School Department provided the paint for the job. The turnout was exemplary, students and teachers arrived ready to redecorate the school. The walls of the gym were painted white and its columns lavender, giving a tint of school spirit to the building.

The job was completed on time thanks to the devotion of the parents and other volunteers. Special thanks go out to the Ellen Moy, the director of the project and Kate Dewolf, an active parent. The success of the project would not have been a reality had it not been for the Alumni Association, including Fred Markey, a graduate of '51. Ellen Moy summed the accomplishment up by saying "the continuity and integration of all involved has made this a great team effort."

Arts & Entertainment

Kevin Spacey Impresses at Boston Film Festival

SPACEY

Continued from Page 1

shots of him. He gets up and gives a little speech. Then the lights go down, and up comes the picture.

Every decade has left behind a handful of movies that are able to grab you from the first frame, and when they are over, you haven't really seen them - you've experienced them. In the 70s, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Kramer vs. Kramer* were those films. And now, the 90s has one more to put on its list next to *Shawshank Redemption* and *Life is Beautiful*... *American Beauty*.

In British theatre director Sam Mendes' debut film, Kevin Spacey and Annette Benning captain this brilliant, relatively unknown cast. With the exception of Thora Birch, who plays Spacey and Benning's daughter, each actor is able to take the audience on an enjoyable, although sometimes frightening, tour of their minds. Spacey delivers the performance of his career as Lester Burnham, a man tired of living unrecognized. As Lester's elitist wife Carolyn, Benning is flawless. She hits each of her character's high and low points with such perfection that it is hard for the audience to realize that they are only watching a character. These two actors have created characters that will both touch and haunt people for year to come.

Thora Birch, who plays the Burnham's rebel daughter, Jane, is the only weakness in the movie. She ridiculously overplays her character's darkside, and is one of the most selfish actresses to have ever graced the screen. She tries to take punchlines off of the other

actors, but is painfully unsuccessful. But even Birch's selfishness is not enough to ruin an otherwise perfect movie. The rest of the cast is a joy to watch.

The film's most shocking, and by far most inspired performance is given by Plymouth native Chris Cooper. As Colonel Fitts, the Burnham's bigoted next door neighbor, Cooper is astounding. He put such thought into each of his lines that when the movie is finished, he is the reason you want to see it again. Also boasting impressive turns are Allison Janney and Wes Bentley, who play the Colonel's wife and son, respectively. With a part a lesser actress would have over-

American Pie, Suvarie redeems herself by playing tough and gracefully exposing her characters vulnerability, all at the same time.

This movie has one of the most talented ensembles ever put together on the screen. They work so well off each other that it is an honor to watch them. As far as we're concerned, this movie will receive Oscar nominations for best picture, as well as for its two stars (Spacey and Benning). After the movie lets out, our hopes of getting to meet with Kevin are crushed as we see Mr. Spacey quickly get escorted out of the theatre. Still, nothing could ruin what we had just experienced.

We saw a remarkable movie with the star only a few feet to our left. It was a beautiful night.

On the walk home, we can't help but wonder, "what if." As we head toward the train, we notice a group of limos in front of the Lenox Hotel. Could it be? Only one way to find out. As we go into the hotel, we try to look as if we belong there, but we were definitely out of place. We spot a group of people talking on cell phones outside of the restaurant in the lobby and wait ... and wait ... and wait. After about forty-five minutes, we decide to give up. But as we get up to go, a short balding guy walks out the door. We freeze.

After all this, it is finally him. Too nervous to move, we just stand. He notices us smiling and kind of smiles. The tension is broken. We move up to him and shake his hand. You know, we really couldn't have asked for a nicer guy. We chatted a bit and then went on our way, hardly able to contain ourselves the rest of the way. It was a perfect ending to a perfect night.



Kevin Spacey and co-star Annette Benning give stellar performances along with entire cast of Sam Mendes' *American Beauty*, now playing at the Cheri Theatre in Copley.

done, Janney is able to find humanity in a chronically depressed housewife. And Bentley, as the couple's loner son, is able to find the perfect balance in a multidimensional character. Mena Suvari, who plays Jane's goddess best friend, is the best kept surprise of the film, however. After appearing in the raunchy summer hit,

BLS Students Shine in Shakespeare's *Tempest*

By John Baker, I
A&E EDITOR

Tucked away in a park off of Soldier Field Road is the Publick Theatre, an outdoor stage that houses Project Shakespeare, a summer drama program. Since Project Shakespeare's founding six years ago, Deborah Schoenberg has been the founder and director, allowing teens and adults to bring the works of

Shakespeare to the stage. This past summer Project Shakespeare produced *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night*, and Boston Latin students were cast in both productions.

Directed by Clifford M. Allen, Shakespeare's 367-year-old play *The Tempest* was beautifully presented to a large crowd of spectators August 10, 16 and 17. Antonio (Nikki Georges-Clapp), the Duke of Milan, and Alonso (Ann Fountain), Queen of Naples, have deprived Prospero (Arjun Jaikumar) of his dukedom of Milan. For twelve years, Prospero has lived on an island with Miranda (Brittany Erlich), his daughter, and Ariel (Gina Cappellano), an airy spirit and servant of Prospero. Stirring a tempest, Prospero shipwrecks Antonio and Alonso on his island. The mischief created by Prospero and the spirits of the island leads to laughter and finally resolution. Miranda and Ferdinand (Jake

Alexander), Alonso's son, are wed, Ariel is freed from Prospero's service, and Prospero prepares for his voyage back to Milan.

I commend and give kudos to the entire cast and crew of Project Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Boston Latin School students Nikki Georges-Clapp (I) and Ann Fountain (I) both created astonishingly human characters of depth. Alexandra Hanson (III) as the Water spirit and Rose Costello (II) as the Fire spirit each gave notable performances. However, Drew Bucillo (IV) as Trinculo and Gina Cappellano (I) deserve special attention. As the jester, Drew was able to perfect being both adorable and humorous to an audience, and Gina, with her natural elegance and talent, gave a seamless performance.

Supported in part, by a grant from the Boston Council for the Arts and Humanities, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Project Shakespeare began as Deborah Schoenberg's thesis project, and is now in its sixth year as an extremely successful summer theatre program. It is a shame that high school students do not take advantage of the resources a city such as Boston offers. With successful drama programs being offered at The Huntington Theatre Company, The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, and Project Shakespeare, interested students should seek out the various opportunities throughout Boston and should become involved in the arts.



Arts Spotlight



Ann Aurelia Fountain

By Gina Cappellano, I
A&E EDITOR

Ann Aurelia Fountain is many things. She is a student, a writer, a violinist, a pianist and an actor. She is a girl of many talents who is loved and cherished by not only her friends, but by anyone who has the ultimate pleasure of working with her. Above all, she is an artist.

"Ann, did you hit your sister?"

"Of course not, Mom..." As one can see, Ann's theatrical abilities first began to blossom around the age of two, when she began to give short performances to her parents at the Fountain family home. Ann began sharpening her natural abilities around the age of eight when she took part in *Creative Arts at Park*, a theatre program for children and other workshops. By the time she had reached her sophomore year at Boston Latin, Ann's talents had truly flourished. A tribute to this fact was her acceptance to the prestigious Interlochen Summer Program for the performing arts. This is a program that people from all over the world audition for, and only the best are accepted. This experience was, as Ann described, "a reality check," and gave her the confidence to pursue the arts for a career.

Back at BLS, Ann has made her mark in such productions as *The Crucible*, in which she gave a chilling performance as Mary Warren, and *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)*. Ann believes that studying Shakespeare has a huge influence in her acting. I was able to view that influence last summer working with Ann in a production of the Bard's *The Tempest*. It amazed me to watch her transform herself entirely into her character, putting not only emotion, but motivation, behind every line.

Ann's theatrical ability is matched only by her musical abilities, which she considers "The foundation of her artistic tendencies." She sings, and has been playing piano for ten years and the violin for five years. At the Community Music Center in the South End, Ann partakes in Clamber Orchestra Performance Classes, Music Theory Classes and an Ensemble Class. She likes the Center because of the talented instructors and for the opportunities to meet other people passionate about music.

In the future, Ann hopes to study theatre in college to achieve her ultimate dream of being a director (which she has been nurturing since her time at Interlochen). She hopes to continue playing the violin for pleasure, but especially the piano because it acts as a wonderful "release" for the pressures in her life.

Yet it is not just Ann's talents that make her an artist in the eyes of her peers; it is much more; I love working with Ann because of her passion for everything in life - she lights up not only the stage, but every class and room she walks into with her brilliant mind and bouncing personality. Ann's passion for life and art is what makes her not just an actress or a musician, but a true artist.

Egyptian Wave Hits Boston

By Daphne Medina, IV & Kerry Mullin, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

This year, Boston residents will have the exciting opportunity to immerse themselves in ancient Egyptian culture and history at four of Boston's most prominent culture venues: the Boston Ballet, the Boston Lyric Opera, the Museum of Science, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Throughout the 1999-2000 season, each will be presenting performances and exhibits centered around the Egyptian theme.

The Boston Ballet will perform choreographer Ben Stevenson's *Cleopatra* at the Wang Center from May 4 - 21, 2000. *Cleopatra* tells the story of the magnificent Egyptian queen's affairs with Caesar and Marc Antony, and the political unrest that they cause. Don't miss what is sure to be an enticing and exciting dramatic event. To learn more about the Boston Ballet and their upcoming performances, including *Cleopatra*, visit their website at boston.com or call their main office at (617) 695-6950.

Devoting their entire 1999-2000 season to Egyptian-based performances, the Boston Lyric Opera is producing *Aida*, *Akhnaten*, and *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*. The first, *Aida*, by Giuseppe Verdi, will run November 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, and 21. It is the classic tragedy of an Egyptian princess enslaved during war, and of her disastrous love affair. *Akhnaten* is a dramatic portrayal of Egypt's first monotheistic ruler, a man who is truly revolutionary. This production by Philip Glass will only run for a limited engagement: January 26, 28, and 30, and February 1, 4, and 6, 2000. The finale to this astounding season of performances is *Die Zauberflöte*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Produced with the help of the Royal Danish opera, *Die Zauberflöte* is a fantastical tale set in a mythical land that recalls ancient Egypt in its prime. This opera will



run in Boston March 29 and 31, and April 2, 4, 7, and 9, 2000. Tickets can be purchased through Tele-Charge at 800-447-7400, or you can go right to the source, the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston, MA, 02116.

The Museum of Fine Arts also comes alive with Egyptian magic this fall, when its *Pharaohs of the Sun* exhibition begins. This exhibit celebrates the ancient treasures of the Amarna Age of Egypt (1353 to 1336 BC) and its chief city Amarna, abandoned 3,500 years ago. The exhibit includes the seat sculpture of Akhenten, the pharaoh who established Amarna as the capital of Egypt, on loan from the Louvre Museum of Paris. Another piece in this collection is a sculpture called the Yellow Jasper Lips of a Royal Woman.

It is theorized that this piece depicts Akhenten's mother, Queen Tiye, or Akhenten's wife Queen Nefertiti. The beauty of this object makes it one of the most renowned objects from the Amarna time period. An additional piece that may draw viewers is the head of King Tutankhamen, who took the throne after Akhenten's death. There are many more exciting pieces in this great exhibit which premieres November 14, 1999.

The Museum of Science is also jumping on the bandwagon by presenting a groundbreaking IMAX film called *Mysteries of Egypt*, directed by Bruce Neibar. The film stars Omar Sharif, who plays a grandfather telling the magical and mesmerizing

stories of Egypt's past to his granddaughter, played by Kate Maberly. The film sweeps back into the past unraveling the mysteries of Egypt. One sees an archaeologist's first glimpse into a young pharaoh's silent tomb filled with gold and other treasures beyond belief. They travel across Egypt's magnificent landscapes, beholding the looming Pyramids of Giza, the wonder and enchantment of the Valley of the Kings, and the powerful yet nurturing Nile River. It begins October 1, 1999 in the newly renovated Mugar Omni Theatre in the Museum of Science.

So listen to your mummy when she tells you to do something cultural for a change; you'll be wrapped up in the experience.

Discover the Opportunities at the Huntington Theatre Company

By Megan Bernotas, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Do you love to act? Are you in search of an outlet? How does the Huntington Theatre Company sound? Not only is it right down the street at 264 Huntington Avenue, but it is also offering several great theatre programs for students in grades nine through twelve. It does not matter how much experience you have; even if you are a beginner, there is a program for you.

The Huntington Theatre Company is putting on several plays during the 1999-2000 season: *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *The Last Hurrah*, *Sisters Matsumoto*, *Mary Stewart*, and a still-to-be-titled play by August Wilson which is currently called *The August Wilson Project*. Many of the productions correspond with the following student programs.

Drama as Discovery is an introductory course to drama for grades nine through twelve, and offers a behind-the-scenes look at a professional theatre company. The sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., starting December 7, 1999 and running through February 1, 2000. *Sisters Matsumoto* will correspond with Drama as Discovery.

The Mirror Performance Project is a program for grades ten through twelve and will meet on Mon-

days and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting February 7 and running through April 13. Why the strange name? This is an advanced program that focuses on *Mary Stewart*, a play about Queen Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. In the Mirror Performance Project, participants will "mirror" what the professionals are doing and will rehearse as if they will actually perform.

The third and final program, The Young Critics Institute, is also an advanced program for grades ten through twelve. It aims to teach students how to analyze and critique texts, and will explore the concepts behind writing a critical review. The Young Critics Institute will meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. starting April 26 and running through June 7. It will correspond with *The August Wilson Project*.

These programs are all free. To sign up, call Linda Murphy at (617) 266-7900 extension 2549, or e-mail her at lmurphlin@bu.edu. If you want more information, you can go to the website at www.bu.edu/huntington. There is also an additional perk: If you complete a Huntington Theatre Company program, you are given a student press pass, which grants you two free tickets to every Huntington production until your twenty-first birthday. But hurry! These popular programs fill up fast on a first come, first serve basis. Take advantage of this amazing professional theatre in Boston Latin's backyard.

From Punk to Folk: Boston Rocks

The Boston Music Scene

Lauren Hughes, II
STAFF WRITER

Different areas of the country have different local musical scenes. Southern California, specifically Orange Country, for example, is known for ska bands like No Doubt, while the Bay area of California is known for punk rockers like Green Day and the Offspring. New York City, on the other hand, is renowned for it's hard core music scene with bands like Sick Of It All. In terms of a vibrant musical scene, Boston is no exception. We have our own little Mecca of music right here in the hub, and many of the bands hail from right in our own neighborhoods.

Everyone has heard of big bands like The Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Powerman5000, both of whom originally hail from hub, but not many have discovered the talent of such local bands as The Dropkick Murphys, The Pug Uglies, and Blacklist. Originating with bands like The Dropkick Murphys, a genre of street/Oi! Punk has been created, to which Boston can lay claim.

This particular genre utilizes classic influences such as Irish flutes and bagpipes combined with punk. The Dropkick Murphys use bagpipes in their music, which brings the air of old pub music to today's lyrics. The Dropkick Murphys recently released their third album, *The Gang's All Here*, on Hellcat Records.

At the heart of the local music scene is the togetherness, the family-like atmosphere. As the Pug Uglies put it, they are "four guys from the same neighborhood with similar backgrounds, they write what they know and live."

An album was recently released that showcases many local bands, such as Blacklist and The Pug Uglies as a tribute to the Boston band Slapshot. The compilation, "Boston Drops the Gloves: A Tribute to Slapshot" contains many of the aforementioned bands and several other dynamic groups.

Kevin So Sings from Soul

By Katarina Yee, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"I gotta get some coffee or I'm gonna die," were the first words out of Kevin So's mouth when we entered Café Royale, a cozy coffeehouse in Kenmore Square. Kevin So, 28, is one busy guy. A talented singer/songwriter and BLS graduate of the Class of 1989, he has three CDs out (*Pendulum*, 1996; *Individual*, 1997; *Along the Way*, 1999) and a fourth due out in May 2000.

So's musical experience started before he came to Boston Latin School as a sixie. Once at BLS, So expanded his musical talent. He played violin in the String Ensemble, sang in Show Choir, and spent one year in Concert Choir. In addition, he was the musical director for the drama club during their production of "Guys and Dolls." So's passion for music for in the way of his way of his musical directing tasks. "Many times, I was a jerk because I wanted the music to be so good. The first thing that I learned is that it's about people. There's the musician, and then there's a heart and soul that can never be overlooked."

So first realized that music could become a career at Boston Latin School. "I remember the first time, I was like, 'Oh wow, this is really great', was at the Fashion and Talent Show. I was playing the piano and I sang, 'Honestly' by Billy Joel. I got a standing ovation after I sang, and it was just one of the biggest rushes I've ever felt in my life. Afterwards, I was feeling good. I couldn't sit still. Everyone was getting quiet because the class was beginning. But there was this one really pretty girl, you know, all of the guys really fancied her. She turned around and noticed me, and she was like, 'Oh, that's the guy who played!' and I remembered that...", So recalled. "That felt good—being recognized for something I loved doing anyway. That was definitely a turning point."

Boston Latin School was not an absolutely wonderful experience for So. He didn't like the "competitiveness that they instilled upon students...I was never comfortable with rank...individuality is so important. Mostly being happy and finding out what you love, and what your passion is."

Race is the subject of such powerful and humorous songs as "Just Like You (I'm An American)" and "Individual", the title track of So's second CD. So says about "Individual", "When I wrote that, I wasn't even thinking about the race thing. I was thinking about everybody who was judged."

So brought up the importance of his fans numerous times in our conversation. "The best thing about being a musician is being in front of an audience...It's amazing when people spend money, come out to the shows, and they want to be there. That's the best thing about being a musician—meeting the fans."

Upon speaking to So, his admiration towards Bob Dylan is evident. "Bob Dylan has given me a voice to speak. He spoke from the underdog's point of view, and I relate to that." Stevie Wonder is another huge influence on So. "He's so committed to his music, and to the overall essence of emotions."

Of his upcoming CD, So said, "It's gonna be very soulful. If it's from the soul, then it's from the heart. I'm gonna try to experiment with some different sounds."

Kevin So has a website: "www.kevinso.com"

Arts Spotlight



John Michael Baker

By Gina Cappellano, I
A&E EDITOR

To have an artistic talent is one of the greatest gifts a person could ever be given. People who are talented in just one art medium recognize how blessed, lucky and special they are every day of their lives. John Baker, one of the luckiest and most special people I know, has three of these talents. He is an accomplished actor, musician and visual artist.

John's first love is theatre. He began acting at Saint Anne School in the sixth grade. He continued to act at Boston Latin, beginning in the ninth grade when he played a minor role in Edmund Rostand's *The Romancers*. In tenth grade, John's abilities became evident in his hilarious yet moving portrayal of Norman in Michael Weller's *Moonchildren*. For the past three years John has been involved with the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival as not only an actor, but also an assistant stage manager and assistant director. Last year, he was honored by the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild for excellence as the assistant director for Boston Latin's award winning production of *WASP*. As a senior he will continue to act and direct, as well as lead Latin's Drama Club as President of the Student Producers Board.

Music is yet another of John's passion. He began playing the clarinet in seventh grade at Boston Latin and has gone on to play in the BLS Junior and Senior Concert Bands. For the past two summers John has been chosen to play in the Boston Police Crosstown Marching Band. Adding to his already vigorous course load of APs and Honors classes, he is also taking the difficult Music AP course here at Latin.

John's visual art is also astounding. He has been involved in the Museum of Fine Arts/Boston Public Schools Scholarship Art Classes since the ninth grade. There is not only technical skill found in his various paintings, sketches and sculptures; but also a great deal of heart. Many of his works have been on display at the Museum of Fine Arts over the past four years.

As of now John's plans for the future are somewhat uncertain. A member of the National Honor Society, John should have no problem excelling in either art or other academic fields such as English or History. He would like to stay involved with the arts throughout college, especially theatre. "I find theatre very soothing ... it is a nice way to escape your own troubles for awhile. There is so much enjoyment in being able to show your own self without having to wonder what other people think." Anyone who knows John's work hopes that he will continue in it, for the world would be at a loss without his talents.

FINELIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Calendar of the Arts

<div><div><div>OCTOBER</div></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct. 20 - <i>A Couple of Blaguards</i> @ Boston Plaza Terrace Room, 64 Arlington St.• Oct. 22 - Nov. 21 - <i>The Last Hurrah</i> @ Huntington Theater• Oct. 27 - Kid Rock & Powerman 5000 @ Tsongas Arena, Lowell• Oct. 28 - Nov. 7 - <i>Riverdance</i> @ Wang Center• Oct. 29 - Oct. 31 - Paul Taylor Dance Company @ The Shubert Theater• Oct. 31 - John Gibbons (harpsichord) @ Museum of Fine Arts</div></div>	<div><div><div>NOVEMBER</div></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nov. 5 - Tree @ The Palladium• Nov. 5 - Kevin So @ Club Passim Harvard Sq. 7 & 10 PM• Nov. 5 - Nov. 28 - <i>Our Town</i> @ Wheelock Family Theater• Nov. 6 - Nov. 7-<i>Maricela de la Luz Lights The World</i> @ Emerson Stage, 7 PM (Nov. 6), 2 & 7 PM (Nov. 7)• Nov. 6 - Nov. 7 - Music Workshop @ Club Passim• Nov. 8 - Bette Midler @ Fleet Center• Nov. 9 - Nov. 14 - <i>Peter Pan</i> @ Wang Center• Nov. 10 - <i>Aida</i> @ Lyric Opera• Nov. 14 - Feb. 6 - "Pharaohs of the Sun" @ Museum of Fine Arts• Nov. 19 - <i>Stomp</i> @ Wilbur Theater• Nov. 19 - Nov. 21 - <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> @ Emerson Stage, 8 PM• Nov. 21 - <i>Bach and Rameau</i> @ Museum of Fine Arts• Nov. 26 - Jun. 2 - <i>The Nutcracker</i> @ Wang Center• Nov. 26 - Feb. 6 - <i>Akhnaten</i> @ Lyric Opera• Nov. 27 - Nov. 29 - <i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i> @ Boston Academy of Music</div></div>
<div><div><div>DECEMBER</div></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dec. 2 - Dec. 6 - The Trinity Irish Dance Company @ Dance Umbrella• Dec. 7 - Dec. 19 - <i>Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story</i> @ Shubert Theater• Dec. 9 - Dec. 12 - <i>Lion in the Street</i> @ Emerson Stage, 8 PM• Dec. 12 - <i>The Office</i> @ Massachussetts College of Art, 7:30 PM• Dec. 14 - Jan. 2 - <i>Footloose</i> @ Colonial Theater• TBA - Boston Latin School Music Groups @ Winter Assembly</div></div>	<div><div><div>INFORMATION</div></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• American Reperatory Theatre (A. R. T.) - Homepage: www.amrep.org Phone: (617) 547 - 8300• Boston Ballet - Homepage: www.boston.com/bostonballet Phone: (617) 695-6955• Boston Plaza Terrace Room - Phone: (617) 426-2000• Celebrity Series- Home Page: www.celebrityseries.org Phone: 482-6661• Charles Playhouse - Phone: (617) 426-6912 (See also: www.blueman.com)• Club Passim - Phone: (617) 492-7679• Colonial Theatre - Phone: (617) 931-2781• Emerson Majestic Theatre - Address: 219 Tremont Street Phone: (617) 824-8000• Lyric Opera - Home Page: www.blo.org Phone: (617) 542-4912• Museum of fine Arts - Home Page: www.mfa.org• Telecharge - Phone: (800) 447-7400• Ticketmaster - Phone: (617) 931-2787</div></div>

BLS Students Shine in Shakespeare's The Tempest

By John Baker, I
A & E EDITOR

Tucked away in a park off of Soldier Field Road is the Publick Theatre, an outdoor stage that houses Project Shakespeare, a summer drama program. Since Project Shakespeare's founding six years ago, Deborah Schoenberg has been the founder and director, allowing teens and adults to bring the works of Shakespeare to the stage. This past summer Project Shakespeare produced *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night*, and Boston Latin students were cast in both productions.

Directed by Clifford M. Allen, Shakespeare's 367-year-old play *The*

Tempest was beautifully presented to a large crowd of spectators August 10, 16 and 17. Antonio (Nikki Georges-Clapp), the Duke of Milan, and Alonso (Ann Fountain), Queen of Naples, have deprived Prospero (Arjun Jaikumar) of his dukedom of Milan. For twelve years, Prospero has lived on an island with Miranda (Brittany Erlich), his daughter, and Ariel (Gina Cappellano), an airy spirit and servant of Prospero. Stirring a tempest, Prospero shipwrecks Antonio and Alonso on his island. The mischief created by Prospero and the spirits of the island leads to laughter and finally resolution. Miranda and Ferdinand (Jake Alexander), Alonso's son, are wed, Ariel is freed from Prospero's service, and

Prospero prepares for his voyage back to Milan.

I commend and give kudos to the entire cast and crew of Project Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Boston Latin School students Nikki Georges-Clapp (I) and Ann Fountain (I) both created astonishingly human characters of depth. Alexandra Hanson (III) as the Water spirit and Rose Costello (II) as the Fire spirit each gave notable performances. However, Drew Bucillo (IV) as Trinculo and Gina Cappellano (I) deserve special attention. As the jester, Drew was able to perfect being both adorable and humorous to an audience, and Gina, with her natural elegance and talent, gave a seamless performance.

Supported in part, by a grant from the Boston Council for the Arts and Humanities, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Project Shakespeare began as Deborah Schoenberg's thesis project, and is now in its sixth year as an extremely successful summer theatre program. It is a shame that high school students do not take advantage of the resources a city such as Boston offers. With successful drama programs being offered at The Huntington Theatre Company, The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, and Project Shakespeare, interested students should seek out the various opportunities throughout Boston and should become involved in the arts.

Sports

The Wolfpack Is Back And Rolling

By Ryan Still, I
STAFF WRITER

Are you ready for some football? I know I am, and by the way the varsity squad has played their first two games, it is evident that they are definitely ready as well. After losing a good amount of talented seniors from last year, one might have been quick to assume that the Wolfpack was going to struggle against their DCL foes this season. Au contraire! This team has come out of the gates firing as they find themselves 2-0 early in the season. Their victories came off of Matignon (14-0) and Bedford (24-7). With the first two games down, the Wolfpack has 8 remaining, and I

games he has already racked up 234 yards rushing. The team has 441 total yards, and Bayo has 234. MVP anyone? Ok, Ok, maybe it is a little too early for that type of praise. Did I mention he has already reached the endzone four times? Manny Montiero scored twice against Bedford on TD passes thrown by quarterback Phil Tracy who has filled the empty shoes of Steve Barry beautifully. The team as a whole has taken the place of last year's seniors flawlessly.



think it is safe to say that we have ourselves a football team. The boys this year always seem to be extremely confident prior to each game, and so far it has paid great dividends. Ok, so great. We're 2-0. How did we get there? Well this year we have many weapons, and Coach Costello has not hesitated to use any of them. The Wolfpack's offense is having no trouble putting points on the board. A large part of that offense has come from senior tailback, Bayo Owelewa. In just two

Yes, the offense is dominating so far. What about the defense you ask? It's just as good! They have given up 7 points. 7 points! That one touchdown came off a Latin fumbled punt and gave Bedford field position deep inside Wolfpack territory. Even then, it took Bedford almost 5 whole minutes to put the ball in the endzone. Junior Erico Lopez led the defense with 11 tackles against Bedford, and seniors Emeke Ajene and Dennis Harris finished with 10 and 9 respectively.

When asked about his team, Coach Costello had nothing but praise for his squad. He is very impressed with his boys and is confident that they will continue doing well. He says that the team's offensive line is very strong and feels the only thing the team needs to work on is technique and execution.

Alright, while I have your attention, I would like to speak to the seniors very quickly. As you all know, this is our last year at this school. Once we graduate many of us will be going to our college's football games. That is if they even have a team. On Thanksgiving Day the seniors will play their last game for

Latin School. How cool would it be if the entire senior class showed up for the game Thanksgiving morning? Of course, there will be some of us who cannot go because of plans etched in stone with family, but how cool would it be if MOST of us went to the game? Or what if most of the school went? What I am trying to say is that this year, let's show English High School what fan support is all about. I'm telling you all this early so that you have the chance to keep November 25th open and get out there and support OUR team. Put the turkey and stuffing on hold for a few hours and come out to show some school pride. The Pack is back, so let's get out there and show some serious fan support. This team is extremely talented, and it would be a shame if not everyone got to see them in their glory.

Wolfpack Football Schedule 1999

- 10/23 Vs. Acton-Boxboro
- 10/29 @ Lincoln-Sudbury
- 11/5 @ Marshfield
- 11/13 Vs. Concord-Carlisle
- 11/25 Boston English @ BU

Superfan Speaks His Mind...

By Michael Donahue, I
STAFF WRITER

After a long hot summer, well I guess in reality it wasn't that long because we got out June 30 and were back ten weeks later, hopefully everyone has made it back safely, some of us for one last run at it (gulp). During the first month of senior year a lot of things can happen, like forgetting your deadline. So at this time I would like to apologize to the girls' swimming, volleyball, and cross-country teams, this article was supposed to be about you, the forgotten yet highly successful teams of the fall season. I didn't have enough time to gather accurate information to do your teams justice. The athletes on these teams have been practicing since the last week of August, and as cross-country continues to improve against their Dual County opponents, and the volleyball team heads towards another state tournament, and the swim team glides with an undefeated record into the A-B showdown, they shouldn't be as forgotten by everyone as they are. So next time you see one of their members in the hallway be sure to ask them how they're doing, so they know someone cares.

The end of the 1999 school year was a success for Latin. The girls tennis team, comprised totally of eighth and ninth graders, made it all the way to the State Finals. The boys baseball team won the DCL and finished eighth overall in the state in the Boston

Globe top twenty poll, and the girl's track team won their first outdoor championship. Anyone that was at the sports banquet won't soon forget all of the great athletes that were honored from our prestigious academic school. Ah yes, now to one of my favorite past times-football season. Coming into the season everyone in the DCL knew the offensive line and running game would be strong. The only questions were on the defense and quarterback positions. After the first game the defense held up and with two touchdown runs, from two and forty yards, Bayo had his MVP candidacy off and running as the team beat up on Matignon 14-0. The next week driving out to Bedford looking for a little white church near the field (all of these places seem like they have little white churches) the quarterback question loomed large in the Latin's fans' minds. After the game those questions had been answered. Phil Tracey went bombs away on the Bedford secondary throwing for two big scores in a 24-7 romp. The team is 4-0, and barring injury or sloppy play should be 5-0 heading into the A-B game October 23 at White Stadium. With a balanced offense and solid defense, look for this surprising Latin team to improve on last year's 5-4-1 record.

As we head into the new millennium remember some important things seniors. There are six grades in our school, but one is at a prison, I mean annex. Don't be caught sneaking up the stairs tardy by Ms. Davis because you know she's watching. Enjoy your-

self with all or none of the privileges we have. Don't get too stressed over the college process, and let's step up and make this one of the most memorable years in BLS sports. Until next time (hopefully I'll remember the deadline) this is Superfan signing off.



Sports Spotlight



Janet Rice

By Erin Burke, II
STAFF WRITER

Decked out in her Latin swimming gear, which includes snow-white sweatpants and a gray sweatshirt both inscribed with purple swimmers and the "BLS Swimming" logo, one can't help but notice Janet Rice walking proudly down the hallway. The seniors have deemed today the day to show off the swim team's pride, and Janet is one of many looking goofy, but having fun.

After she learned how to swim at the age of three in Japan, Janet started two habits she has not been able to break since: qualifying and winning. She consistently improved her speed on an extremely competitive swim team in Virginia, specializing in the backstroke and the butterfly. Between the ages of seven and twelve, she went to the Junior Olympics four times in both relays

Janet started two habits she has not been able to break since: qualifying and winning.

and individual events. She also competed in various meets in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and other nearby states. Excelling at her sport has never been a problem, and she made a problem-free transition into Boston as well.

In the eighth grade, Janet joined the swim team and quickly swam herself to the top of the team, qualifying for the sectional and state meets that year. The next year she continued her success by qualifying again, and earning the award of "Most Outstanding Swimmer," an award she received for two consecutive years. Since her first year on the team, she has gone to the qualifying meets every single year in events such as the 100m backstroke, the 500m free, the 100m fly, and the 200m IM. She even went last year when she was forced to sit out most of the season due to a shoulder injury. Now, in her senior year, she is looking to be better than ever, and she is going to the states already in the 100m backstroke and the medley relay.

She attributes her success in swimming to all of her coaches, who "pushed her hard to become better, but never pressured her or made her hate the sport." It is a sport that she loves and is a major part of her life. Of course, as it is for many athletes, balancing a sport with school is not easy. Her workload is heavy with two AP's: Government and Modern European History. Her favorite class is English with Ms. O'Malley. She would like to attend a good college either in the Virginia or Boston area, but she is not exactly sure yet. She does know that wherever she goes, she would like to end up "at SeaWorld training Shamu," as a marine biologist. She also says that her spare time often includes hanging out with her buddies Meghan, Maura, Liz, Anna, Teddy, Maddy, and Sadha; listening to her obsession, Billy Joel; and lifeguarding. When asked if she could be one food for the rest of her life, she happily responded, "a whopper." Janet makes everyone around her laugh, but she also knows when to be serious. And when she is on the block waiting for the gun to start the race, everyone knows that once she pierces the water, the competition will be blown away.

Girls Swimming Makes A Splash

By Greg Porter, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a world of free agents and million dollar pay checks, the concept of teamwork is quickly fading away. Team performance is no longer as important. But don't tell that to our Boston Latin Girls' Swim Team. Every week, 60 or so girls work, cheer and compete as one. This teamwork has earned them a quick 4-0 start.

Two things that these girls do not lack are talent and motivation. Much of the credit for the team's success in the past few years goes to 20 year coach Bruce Conley, former swim team star and assistant coach, Caity O'Reilly and senior co-captains Katie Dervan, Kim Wing, Janet Rice and Anna

Dockery. Says junior Kara Keeley, "I think that this year our team has been much closer due to the dedication of the seniors." Seniors such as Lauren Smith, Katie Sheehan, Kara McElhinney, Jeanette Sayers, Ann Roberts, Emma Turnbaugh and Meghan Nelligan could not be more dedicated to the success of the team.

Emotional inspiration has driven these girls to qualify for states in several events; Dec Devlin and Emily Robins in the 200m freestyle, Erin Burke, Katie Dervan and Kara Keeley in the 50m butterfly, Janet Rice in the 100m backstroke, Heather Showstead in the 200 IM and Janet Rice, Heather Showstead, Erin Burke and Katie Dervan in the medley relay.

The support both emotionally and vocally on this team is unreal. In every meet, you will be sure to hear the loudest support from juniors Nicole Devlin, Tricia Russell, Nicole Hogarty, Emily Poles and of course Meghan Davoren who is described as the "mom" of the team. After Latin's 93-85 defeat of Marshfield, an emotional Erin Burke had this to say, "Today everyone tried and all the practices are finally paying off."

One thing definitely noticeable about the team is how unbelievably loud and supportive they are except when juniors Stephanie Gonzalez and Lauren Gilmore are diving, that is. These two girls amaze the crowd with their dives, and when they are competing you can really feel the immense tension in the room.

All of these hard working girls hope to continue their successful ways and carry out another impressive season in the competitive Dual County League.

Boys' Soccer Fights It Out

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

This season has not been very easy for the Boys' Soccer team. Despite a lot of determination and a real fighting spirit, the team only had two wins to show for those things as of now. Those two wins were big ones, though, over Catholic Memorial and Weston by 2-1 scores.

The team captains are seniors, Aaron McCormick, Kevin O'Keefe, and Nick Borelli. They have worked hard throughout the year to lead this team. Along with seniors James Duane, Huy Pham, Alex Perduc, Ben Neiditz, Ricky Belmonte, John Balaconis, Andrew Dubrowski, and Rishi Sidhu, they form the core of a team that has played together for years. Juniors Matt Wright, Jason Allukian, John Perakis, Jacob

Bor, Jonah Birch, Diego McCafferty, and Steve Delosh and sophomore Brandon Swanson join the seniors to form a veteran team. These players have been together for a few years and know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

This year has been a learning experience for the Pack. They have not had much success, but they have given it their all. Duane put it best when he said: "We had a tough start to the season because of the coaching change and injuries, but senior leadership kept this team together." This group truly understands the team concept. They are willing to fight for each another. They are on a "crusade towards respectability." They play in a top league, they lost some key players, and they do not really receive much fan support (outside of a small group of devoted senior girls), but the team has persevered the best they can and have represented the school proudly throughout.

Girls' Soccer Scores

By Elizabeth Maher, I & Kathleen Banfield, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The Girls' Varsity Soccer team just might be the most underrated squad this fall at Latin. Jumping out to a quick 2-0 record, the girls have played hard in spite of being plagued by injuries. After losing two crucial starters last year for the season, the team realizes how devastating injuries can be. This August, quite serious about preparing for the season, the girls attended intense camps and worked hard at the traditionally grueling double sessions. Coach Marianna Todesco wanted her girls to be ready to win, and ready to lead them are senior Captains Kathleen Banfield, Liz Maher, Maddie O'Donovan, and Rachel Racusen.

In an electrifying and intense 2-1 win against defending state champion Weston, Kathleen Banfield tied the game with a picture perfect shot into the left corner. The win shocked Weston and the rest of the DCL, and gave the team even more reason to prove themselves this season.

In a crushing 6-0 loss at Lincoln-Sudbury, the Lady Pack seemed to be returning to the play most people expected of them. After the lackluster performance, the girls bounced back to pound Bedford 3-0 in their first home game. Junior goalie Amy Cochran proved herself in net as she recorded her first shutout of the season, while senior Lauren Hurley put Latin on the board with a goal on a well placed corner kick taken by Megan Rounseville. Also scoring was sophomore Jackie Coffey, who played aggressively and withstood dirty and painful playing. Anchoring the Latin defense are returning senior starters Rachel Racusen, Anya Drabkin, and Liz Maher. Sophomore Megan Rounseville continues to be a key player both on defense and offense.

Yet even after such victories, the Pack still faces several challenges with many of its toughest competitors still to play. Two disappointing losses to Newton-South and Acton-Boxboro revealed some weaknesses in the team's performance but also saw consistent, strong play from junior defender Alicia Tildsley and senior midfielder Nikki Georges-Clapp. Right wing Maddie O'Donovan, having overcome an injury, provided a much-needed spark in the Latin offense.

No one expected this team to have a larger number in the W column than in the L column. No one expected this team to beat Weston. No one expected these girls to play as a team. But this is their season, it is their time to prove their ability to everybody else. This is their time to be healthy and play hard. This is their time to cast all the doubts about their skill, desire, and intensity aside. This is their turn to gain the glory and honor of posting a winning record at the end of October. This is their time to shine. This is their season.



Volleyball

By Eddie Lau, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Let's go Latin, Let's go," raves the crowd as the girls' volleyball team positions itself to start the game. I look around, and I mumble to myself, "pretty good crowd today." Until 2 or 3 years ago, volleyball game attendance was terrible. Four years ago while on the JV team, I often found myself as the lead cheerleader on the sidelines for the Varsity games. Unfortunately I did not have pompoms. In the past two years, the Boston Latin Volleyball team has recently enjoyed success in the girls' and boys' team. Last year both teams made a tournament appearance and lost in nail-biters (the memory is still painful). The newfound success and excitement has finally brought the BLS fans back from the dead. There are amazingly more and more fans every time there is a home game (special thanks to the football players who come watch them).

The girls' team this year sorely misses the inspiring play of their seniors, but it seems that new captain, Massielle Morales, has improved and taken on the center stage role alongside returning Varsity starters, Caroline Lennon, and Emily Conroy. Their experience may come handy to their fellow starting teammates, Gloria Shum, Gisselle Morales, and Tiffany Tran. Last but not least, the heart and soul of the team always comes from the supporting cast that consists of Anna Wong, Seida Sanchez, Amy Nguyen, and Kathleen Nguyen.

The key and secret of success for this team comes from a true motivator, Kai Yuen. His coaching techniques and leadership is unmatched in the league. He has taken a 5-15 boys' team and turned his players 180 degrees, taking them to the playoffs with a record of 15-5. He is larger than life, despite what his mild mannered 5'7" appearance may indicate to you. His dedication to teaching players how to play, how to win, and how to have fun is the driving fuel for the BLS Volleyball train.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar once told the world that the most challenging team

Golf Team Goes for the Green

By Lev Grossman-Spivak, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The golf season starts out with a positive attitude. Everyone saunters around with their new golf shoes, shows off their Titanium drivers, and brags about the distance they can get out of their irons. Yes, Boston Latin School does have a golf team.

Although this selection of Latin's finest golfers has not put their skills together to pull out a W, the philosophy of the team to just have a good time should be enough to eventually lead us to victory.

This year the Golf team has a strong starting six who take the long bus rides day in and day out to Concord or Acton and compete in one on one match play. Owen Roddy has started every match at the number one spot. Tim Mahony and Derek Crawford have traded off at the two spot, Greg Trudel plays a solid three or four, and Lev Grossman-Spivack and Ryan Kearney, best buddies, have switched off at five and six. The supporting cast of the Latin team, who play between five and eight are: Scott Sharek, Brendan Connell, Dan Fitzgerald, Steve Casper, Andrew Smith, Greg Porter, Zach Robbins, Lauren Foley, and Mike Manning.

In a golf match, each team picks eight players to compete each match. The number one player on Latin plays the number one player of our opponents and so on. The number one and number two players for each team play in what is called a "four-some." The same goes for the three and Four, five and six, and seven and eight. A match is won by the number of holes won by each side. For example, if Owen Roddy wins the first hole by getting a four and his opponent gets a five, he is up by one hole. If they tie the rest of the holes; then Owen wins the match. The object of the game obviously is to win the most holes by getting the lowest score on each hole.

Although the team's record doesn't reflect it, the golf team has had a great season so far and with the support of our school, we should be able to pull out a W in the second half of the season. So when you see someone carrying a golf bag through the halls, wish him good luck. Even better, come out to the golf course and cheer us on. Our home course is George Wright Golf Course, which is in Hyde Park.

sport to grace the planet was volleyball. I cannot agree more with his choice. Success in volleyball comes from the chemistry between the coach and the players. Unfortunately there are no Michael Jordans in volleyball, and there are no Prima Donnas. There are exceptional players, but their good play is only defined by the complementary play of their fellow teammates. Thus, a good team is formed by good chemistry, good coaching, and most importantly good support from us (yes this last sentence is a shameless plug to ask you to root at volleyball games).

Sports Spotlight



Bayo Owolewa

By Ross Forbes, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is not hard to tell who Bayo is. If you haven't seen him already in school, which either means you are oblivious to anything outside Latin's 1st conjugation or you go to the Annex. If this is the case, all you need to know is that he is real big. Bayo's arms pretty much defy fundamental physics. He really is a person who looks like an athlete, and a football player, and as the crown jewel to Latin's high powered, red hot offense, one can that, in closing this millennium at Latin School, we are a team to be reckoned with.

Latin has had a history of great running backs going even beyond Costello's tenure, the latest being Kevin Fidalgo, who graduated when we seniors were wee little eighth-graders. But Bayo, by the end of his career, could very well be at the top of a very prestigious heap. A tremendous blend of size and speed make Bayo any 175 lb. linebacker's worst nightmare. Even now, as I write this, to think of the momentum he produces upon receiving the hand-off makes me shudder. He is on pace to score over twenty touchdowns and rush for close to 2000 yards, both of which would put him on the list of the elite. But soon to come is Bayo's, and the football team's, greatest test: a pair of games against Lincoln-Sudbury and Acton-Boxboro, whom Latin hasn't beat since before even the sagely seniors can remember. I asked Bayo what would be the keys to this game:

"We both know that both teams like to run up the middle," he said, "It will be up to the defensive line and our linebackers to shut the other team down, so we can get the ball into our offense's hands."

Latin has clearly one of the best offenses in the league because it is well rounded. Even this can be attributed to Bayo's skills. Most game plans revolve around containing him, which leaves opportunities open for the efficient quarterback, Phil Tracy, and the explosiveness of a trio of wide receivers: Michael Young, Manny Monteiro, and Kevagh Author.

But despite his brilliance on the field, Bayo is an intelligent, friendly, down to earth guy. Ever since we've played freshman football together we've been good friends. He is always up to date on sports news and is ever critical on our beloved Patriots.

"I will say this, they have been a pleasant surprise but," he laughs, "they need a halfway decent running back."

I wonder if Pete Carroll has been spotted anywhere near Latin's practices? ("Please, Coach Costello, I only need him for Sundays! I swear!")

But in all seriousness, this is an important year for Bayo and the rest of the senior class. It will be the last time we will get to see the annual drubbing of English High School as students. Although, they beat us two years ago, (hey everybody gets lucky right?) I asked Bayo how they stood against us this year: "Well they usually give us a good fight," I stifled laughter, "but I don't think that they will be able to keep up with us this year, on either side of the ball."

Looking back over the past year, I remember all the times Bayo broke for a long run, and I don't remember him ever being caught. It could be a testament to his tremendous speed, but it also has something to do with the proud tradition and class that Bayo carries himself with. When he is in the end zone, he acts like he is used to being there. Bayo displays the qualities that all alumni are proud to see.

So for all you social outcasts and exiled sixies, who are wondering, and if you don't already know, who Bayo is, come to a football game, and look for the really big kid in the end zone.

Cross-Country Goes The Distance

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER

It is not the easiest fall sport. It is actually a lot of hard work. You have to run a lot. You will probably put your body through some serious pain. Not many people do it, but our Cross Country team loves it. Take a look at the determination of the team. In a world where only a few particular sports have been glamorized and made popular, it is hard to find a group of teenagers who want to put themselves through days of grueling practices and meets for the sport they love. Our Cross Country team has done that. Everyday they commit themselves to running, just running. They love the sport.

Coach Michael Meagher has a wonderful relationship with the kids on the team. This quote by a player typifies him: "Oh, he's the nice guy over there by the phone. Go talk to him. He's an awesome guy." What a great basis for a team's success! The success on the team starts right with the coach. As I was talking to the coach, I could tell that he was eager

to get his kids started on their workout and was not looking for his due glory in the Argo. In this sport, dedication to hard work is key. You always have to give all of yourself.

In the meets, there is only one event where the team has to run as a whole. The team has to have 5 runners to get a score. The team with the lowest overall score wins the meet. The courses are from 2.5 to 3.1 miles long. The team practices at the Fens, Jamaica Pond, or Charles River. Their home course is Franklin Park. This course is also used by many colleges and regional tournaments. Some seniors who have worked a long time on the team and deserve mention for their hard work this year and in years past are Steve Bingham, Mike Lyons, Sue Byrnes, Shana Gearty, and Maryanne Porter.

With a team of 15 members, they expect some big wins this year. There are quite a few veterans on the team who have spent their time not only working

on their own abilities, but also encouraging the few, brave younger runners. Rain or shine, this devoted team puts themselves through day after day of running. They enjoy working hard at this, a great thing to see. Their physical endurance is probably built up better than that of any other sports teams in the school. When asked about his availability in the afternoon, Joe Coffey nonchalantly said: "Oh yah. I'll have plenty of time to talk. We just have an easy 5 miles this afternoon." I do not know about you, but I have never heard of an "easy" 5 mile run. Their commitment to improving their performance is commendable. If you can not get out to one of the meets this fall, try and talk to someone on the team. It might lower your self-esteem when you think about your endurance from now on, but we could all learn a good lesson from this team's grit and determination.

A Look Back: Kevin Figalgo, Class of '96

By Tim McDonald, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Latin Wolfpack stands 4-0, its offense is a juggernaut, its defense stalwart, tied for the lead of the Dual County League. Only a few members of the Latin School can ever remember when the football team so excelled, going all the way back to the 1994 squad that tore up the DCL. On that squad played one of the few men who can truly appreciate the season now being enjoyed by the Wolfpack. Kevin Fidalgo can well understand their feeling of dominating the DCL, can easily empathize with having the expectations of the whole school being placed on his shoulders.

Kevin's 1995 team, propelled by his 1300 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns, nearly beat Acton-



Boxboro and missed the Division II Superbowl by one game. Yes, Kevin can easily identify with Bayo and this year's squad, but at the same time he envies them. He is a man who had superlatives piled upon him: the most valuable player of the DCL, and Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic, and was the first running back to lead the state in scoring; yet I think Kevin would trade all his accolades for a chance to still be out playing on the gridiron. Kevin graduated from Latin in 1996, and headed out to UMASS-Amherst to play football. Kevin's experience with college football was both unpleasant, and short-lived. His college football career lasted all of two days, which caught Kevin by surprise. "My experience at UMASS was very different. I went from playing every down to not playing at all. I realized how much I missed playing high school football. College football is a business, whereas high school football was fun."

Kevin Fidalgo can well appreciate all the feelings of success the football team enjoys, and it is with melancholy feelings that he will watch his eleventh Thanksgiving Day game. Perhaps, though, Kevin's experience in college athletics can provide a valuable lesson for other scholar-athletes thinking they'll go into college and rule the world. Kevin truly exemplifies the phrase "scholar-athlete"; and he has made the most of his opportunities in college. He will graduate from UMASS this spring, and is deciding between attending Law School or Graduate School; and every Latin School student can learn something of value from Kevin's parting words: "BLS prepared me well for the real world. I went from being an average student at



BLS to the Dean's list at college. Making it through Latin was probably the hardest thing I will ever do."

STATS BOX

- 1300 yards rushing
- 22 touch downs
- led state in scoring 150 points
- voted MVP of DCL
- All-Scholastic in Globe and Herald

Boston Latin Varsity Team Records
Fall 1999

Football			Boy's Cross-Country			Boy's Soccer		
	League Record	Overall Record		League Record	Overall Record		League Record	Overall Record
Boston Latin	3-0-0	4-0-0	Westford Acad	4-0	4-0	Acton-Boxboro	6-1-1	7-1-1
Acton-Boxboro	2-0-0	4-0-0	Acton-Boxboro	3-1	3-1	Westford Acad	6-2-1	6-2-1
Westford Acad	1-2-0	3-2-0	Concord-Carl	3-1	3-1	Newton South	5-1-2	5-1-2
Concord-Carl	1-1-0	1-2-1	Lincoln-Sudb	3-1	3-1	Lincoln-Sudb	4-4-0	4-4-0
Newton South	1-1-0	2-2-0	Weston	3-1	3-1	Concord-Carl	2-3-1	2-3-1
Lincoln-Sudb	1-0-0	1-3-0	Bedford	1-3	1-3	Bedford	3-2-1	3-2-1
Wayland	0-3-0	0-4-0	Newton South	1-3	1-3	Weston	3-4-2	3-4-2
Bedford	0-2-0	0-4-0	Boston Latin	0-4	0-4	Wayland	2-4-0	2-4-0
Weston	0-0-0	0-0-0	Wayland	0-4	0-4	Boston Latin	1-8-0	2-8-0

Girl's Volleyball			Girl's Soccer		
	League Record	Overall Record		League Record	Overall Record
Westford Acad	6-0	6-0	Acton-Boxboro	7-0-1	7-1-1
Lincoln-Sudb	4-2	4-2	Westford Acad	7-0-1	8-0-1
Newton South	4-2	4-2	Lincoln-Sudb	5-3-1	5-3-1
Boston Latin	3-3	3-3	Newton South	4-4-1	5-4-1
Acton-Boxboro	2-3	2-3	Concord-Carl	3-1-4	4-1-4
Concord-Carl	1-5	1-5	Weston	3-5-2	3-6-2
Bedford	0-6	0-6	Boston Latin	2-6-1	3-6-1
Wayland	0-0	0-0	Wayland	1-7-1	1-7-1
Weston	0-0	0-0	Bedford	0-8-0	0-8-0

Girls' Cross-Country

The Girls' Cross-Country team stands at 4-3, with the bulk of the important State qualifying meets yet to come. Senior Tri-Captains Sue Byrne, Maryanne Porter, and Shana Gearty all stand a good chance of qualifying for States, as does sophomore Bridget Butler. This year's Cross-Country team has adopted a strenuous work ethic with the goal of having the whole team qualify for the States, as opposed to just individual members.

Miscellaneous

Bayo Owolewa has seven rushing touchdowns and 42 points so far this year, placing him among the Division II leaders. The Football team's offense is averaging more than 20 points a game, second best in the DCL. The Football team's defense has only 19 points all year, good for tops in the DCL.

Golf

The Golf team stands without a win at press time, but has played well against the DCL's stiff competition. Coach Benny Myers leads a squad of fifteen dedicated athletes on what is, undoubtedly, the school's most underappreciated team.

Girls' Swimming

The Girls' Swim team stands at 6-2, including an impressive win over archrival Newton North. The 200 Medley Relay team and the 200 M Relay have qualified for States. Deidre Devlin, Erin Burke, Katie Dervan, Janet Rice, Heather Showstead, Emily Robbins have all qualified for States, and diver Stephanie Gonzalez has qualified for Sectionals.



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Free

Latin Shines In Turkey Day Win

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

In the midst of cold, wind, and rain at Nickerson Field, the play of the Boston Latin School Wolfpack warmed the spirits of fans and alumni as they dominated the Blue and Blue of Boston English 42-20. In the 113th Thanksgiving Day meeting of these two schools, the Wolfpack again came out victorious and made their school feel so proud.

On a wet field besieged by heavy rains, Coach Costello had his team keep the ball on the ground throughout the game with a punishing running game. Senior halfback Bayo Owolewa finished up a stellar football career at Latin by scoring five touchdowns and compiling 215 yards rushing in what he called his "most meaningful English game." The offensive line dominated the English defensive front all day long, opening up running room for Owolewa. Senior quarterback Phil Tracey scored Latin's other touchdown on a 3-yard run in the first quarter, in addition to a two-

point conversion run in that same quarter. Senior Jonathan Pappas finished up the scoring for the Wolfpack with five extra points on this great day for the Wolfpack.

English struck the first blow against the Wolfpack as it marched down the field on the first drive of the game for a touchdown. Junior tailback Aljamal Jenkins punched the ball in from six yards out, much to the surprise and dismay of the Wolfpack fans. Latin responded immediately on its first drive of the game, however, as it marched right down the field, culminating in Owolewa's first touchdown from the 8-yard line. After an English punt, Latin finished up the first quarter scoring with a Tracey touchdown run on 4th and goal from the three-yard line. After the first quarter, the Wolfpack was ahead 15-6.

The two teams exchanged touchdowns in the second quarter. Owolewa scored on a 13-yard run with eight minutes to go in the first half. During that drive, the Latin faithful was uplifted by junior Joe Coffey's



Senior Bayo Owolewa eludes the English defender en route to one of his five touchdowns as part of a 215-yard MVP performance.

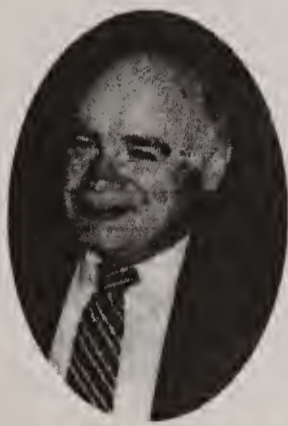
(Continued on page 19)

Memorial Service for Mr. Robert W. Lee

By Rebecca Schildkret, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There could not have been a more appropriate celebration of the life of Mr. Lee than the memorial in his honor held on Thursday, November 12, 1999. Although the realization that we will not see Mr. Lee again is painful, the warmth of his character, the devotion shown everyday in his work, and especially his smile and humor will remain with us always.

A gathering of friends, family, colleagues, and students joined in the BLS auditorium. The program opened after a welcome from Ms. Kelley and a striking spiritual performed by the Gospel Choir. A



Sic transit gloria mundi.

unique reflections period followed. This involved a Power Point slide show presentation, which contained a collection of pictures and favorite quotes used by Mr. Lee that stirred many memories in the audience. It also perfectly suited Mr. Lee's love of technology and math.

Several speakers, including former head master Mr. Contompasis, as well as Mr. Lacroix, UMass and BPS colleagues, alumnus Curtis Glavin, and close friends shared anecdotes and memories emphasizing the strong educational and personal impact Mr. Lee had on so many people. The speeches at last year's Crystal Apple Awards Program honoring Mr. Lee were also repeated by

students and an inspirational poem by Maya Angelou was recited.

The Lee family received the memory boxes which contained notes of support, consolation, and hope from the BLS community.

Kathy, wife of Mr. Lee, expressed her appreciation of the ceremony and reiterated the importance that the students and teachers had in Mr. Lee's life.

The Gospel Choir closed the memorial with powerful music, and a reception followed in the cafeteria. Many members of the BLS community were able to meet the Lee family and speak with friends. This beautiful tribute was nothing short of magnificent.

Those who knew Mr. Lee knew the amaz-

ing person he was, both as a teacher and as a friend. He connected with young people so well that there was an equally strong desire for him to teach as there was for us to learn. He constantly worked to incorporate technology into his lessons, to find new and better ways to teach material, and to help his students whenever they were having trouble. His legacy will live on in the lives of the people he taught and touched. He will be missed terribly, but remembered as a genuinely wonderful person.

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never know where his influence stops." Nothing could be more true about this man.

Latin School Places First in MCAS Exams

By Justina Wong, I
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Following in its tradition of excellence, Boston Latin School placed first in the state on the 1999 MCAS test for both the eighth and tenth grades this week. This achievement serves as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and determination of the entire BLS community, but most importantly of the students. Despite the controversy and protests of the MCAS exam by some, last spring the eighth and tenth graders gave their best effort and represented the school with seriousness and focus.

The MCAS exam was given last spring to fourth, eighth, and tenth graders throughout the state. Almost every child in the state is now required to take the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam. Starting with the Class of 2003 (last year's eighth grade), a student must pass the MCAS exams to graduate from high school. However, the standard for a "passing" grade is not yet set. Currently, a system is being proposed in which a student must at least meet the "needs improvement" category (220-240) to pass the exam. This debate will not be decided until January and is still open to public comment addressed to the Board of Education. The *Boston Globe* also points out that many protests and critics are against the MCAS because they feel it uses "one high-stakes standardized test to judge a student's ability." In addition, Modern Foreign Language will be added on to the requirements to pass the exam in about two years. The positive and negative effects of the MCAS exam continue to be discussed and debated.

The 1999 MCAS results rank Boston Latin School at the top of the list of public schools in the state of Massachusetts. The eighth grade and the tenth grade received total scaled scores of 980 and 741, respectively. These scores surpassed suburban schools such as Wayland, Belmont, Brookline, and Newton, to name a few. Latin School students proved that they can contend with other wealthier public schools. The general reaction from most teachers was that these high scores were "expected." Since BLS is an examination school, many of "the best and brightest" from Boston are accepted, whereas other public schools have a wider range of student capabilities. However, we should take pride in the fact that our student body includes individuals from a wide range of economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds and still managed to excel. This disproves the idea that wealth is a requirement for success; hard work is just as effective.

Last year's eighth and tenth graders (presently freshmen and juniors) demonstrated outstanding ability to endure and succeed at the exams. The tenth graders did an excellent job. However, the eighth graders had more difficult challenges to face since they would be tested on an unfamiliar subject—social studies. Beginning with their class, students now have to pass the MCAS exam to receive their diploma. Many students had not touched upon history since elementary school. They would be tested on a virtually unknown subject. This was a weakness since other Massachusetts

(Continued on page 9)

Instead of the Usual Dictator’s Note:

We Bring You HOLIDAY MESSAGES!!!

SPECIAL HOLIDAY GREETINGS - KYK, KM, ETx2, SG, JS, JD, RH, BIG-O, TM, CN, LT, PW, DG, A-FLAX, BEK, C.O. 2000!!!-JEFF

Happy Holidays to all of the e-crew, my Greek-freaks, cheerleaders, trackstars and class of 2000-Lec

WORD TO YOUR LLAMA! TO L, S, AND MY SAY wZ uP to aLL YoUR FaRm PoSsE! LUV ALWAYS CAITLIN

MERRY CHRISTMAS TARPEY AND CO BEST TEACHERS @ BLS AND TO ANNA 143 AND TO ALL SENIORS AND CUPCAKEFACE

A Big Shout Out to: Liz, Nina, Lisa, Lisa,Shannan,Eddie,Sam,Ryan and all the Wolfpack. I'll See Everyone 12/31 JD

HAPPY FESTIVUS TO ALL ! (But especially: Fatty, KDD,<) Class of 2000-HAVE FUN NEXT YEAR! LOVE, STK

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO FAT ALBERT! HEY! HEY! HEY! KT

Merry Christmas to my daughters Sara and Colleen! You two are so awesome. Love,Mom aka Rebecca

Merry Christmas to my Southie girls. Mozz too. Class of 2000-We made it! Love Always-Monica

Merry Christmas to: Rosie Helena Donna Caroline Squash Lily and Marah From... Mark D and Alex M

MAD HOLIDAY PROPS TO ALL MY FRIENDS. YOU GUYS AND GALS ARE ALL GREAT. A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHERIFF. A SPECIAL HELLO TO ALL THE ARGO STAFFERS. SPORTS SECTION RULES, YEAH T. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND GOD BLESS. ROB O.

The Sports department is welcome for ALL their pictures!~ You're ALWAYS welcome!~ Casey

Visit the *Argo* on the Internet at:

<<http://blsargo.cjb.net/>>.

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to <bls_argo@yahoo.com>, given to Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in 302, or deposited in the *Argo* basket on the counter in the Main Office.

All students interested in working on the *Argo* should check the Daily Bulletin for the dates of individual department meetings.

To advertise in the *Argo*, please contact our business manager, Lisa DeBenedictis in 335.

Boston Latin School

Argo

Founded in 1970

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

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1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1996 Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition 3rd Place

1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

The *Argo* is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents, and alumni. The expressions, suggestions, and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editor. The *Argo* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

The *Argo* is produced as an extra-curricular activity. All typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Ask the Argo

Got a question you're just dying to ask? Got a burning desire to know? Well, just ask the Argo! Our multitudes of trained editors won't rest until we have the answer! Submit questions to any of our editors or email them to bls_argo@yahoo.com.

Q: So what do you guys actually do on those late nights in the MacLab?
A: We do our *ARGO* tribal dances while awaiting the impending doom of the Millennium.

Q: Do you guys compete at all with the *Register*?
A: Yes, in fact, the *ARGO* v. *Register* hard core death match is scheduled for next February 30.

Q: What is the *ARGO*'s interpretation of "journalistic integrity"?
A: Well, that answer can be found in our motto - "All the news that's fit to make up."

Q: Why is the sports section the most read section of the *ARGO*?
A: Because of its handsome and well-physiqued editors.

Q: Who would be the *ARGO*'s selection for "Man of the Century"?
A: Bruce McKinnon.

Q: Why are the new gym classrooms much nicer than all the other classrooms?
A: Because Mr. Idzik has not spilled coffee in them yet.

Q: Are you guys scared at all of the huge crane at the construction site?
A: Not at all, in fact, last week, Rolo was flying around on the end of it screaming "Back to Never Never Land!!!!"

Q: With Ms. Russo now spending most of her time at the Annex, who is protecting the hallowed hallways of

BLS?
A: Out of the ashes of despair has arisen a new hero, a man who will keep us safe. That's right, the Sheriff Matt Gillooly.

Q: How can I get on the *ARGO* Staff List?
A: You must capture all the *ARGO* pokémons.

Q: What is the greatest dairy product of all time?
A: Cheese of course - you can find it on the moon, you can put it in a spoon. You can put it on your head, you can eat it in your bed. You can put it in a sock, then cook it with the Rock. La la la la and that's why we like cheese.

Q: What did your true love give you on the seventh day of Christmas?
A: On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me seven little chipmunks sitting on a branch, eating lots of acorns on my uncle's ranch.

Q: If you could be one person for a day, who would you want to be?
Rolo: Mini-Me.
Rob O: Bruce McKinnon.
Matt G: Man, I wanted to be Bruce.
Tim M: Mr. T (I pity the fool).
Andrea: Anyone taller than Rolo.
Lisa D: Pikachu.

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Dr. Evil

News

New "War 101" Club Seeks to Raise Awareness

By Alexi Nowell, I and Angelo Caraballo, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The following article is brought to you by War 101, a new club dedicated to educating people about the horrors of war.

In today's society, wars come and go, or at least that's what we're led to believe by the mass media. As soon as the popularity of a subject dies down, we stop hearing about it. When was the last time you heard anything about Kosovo, or Colombia, not to mention "overdone" subjects, such as Chechnya? The fact is that unless you search hard for information on these subjects, you will not hear a single thing

about them.

Currently in Kosovo there is still conflict between the Serbians and the Kosovars. People are dying daily from fighting that still rages on between the two ethnic groups. Those who are able to keep out of the conflict have different hardships to endure, including staying alive due to the lack of any supplies at all. People are freezing to death as winter approaches.

Many people do not know that the majority of the land in Columbia is controlled by rebels. Only now peace talks are beginning between the government and the rebel groups.

Even during these talks though, there is blood being shed by both sides. This does not even include the drug war which is still being fought. For the first time in years, a Colombian druglord has been extradited to the US to face criminal charges. This is the strongest show of force we have seen in years from the Colombian government in terms of drug trafficking.

Lastly, Chechnya is an independent nation being razed by a merciless Russian Army. Russia has invaded Chechnya for the purpose of "eliminating terrorists", yet

they bomb indiscriminately, raining destruction on hospitals, schools, and public markets.

Thousands of innocent people are dying in this war, yet when was the last time you heard about it? These are just a few cases where the mass media and society have neglected to keep people informed of major events happening right as we speak. This needs to change. If all else fails, you, the reader need to find some way to educate

yourself. Don't ignore what is happening in your world. Get concerned.



Conflicts rage throughout Europe.



The War in Kosovo has split families, and has caused unimaginable destruction.

Young Leaders of Color Challenge BPS Assignment Policies

By Zoe Liou, I
STAFF WRITER

"I feel that sometimes our struggle is not too much about racial inequity, but more that people make decisions without considering the people they will affect," says Young Leaders

posed of "minority" groups (Blacks and Hispanics). However, invitees to Boston Latin do not reflect this ratio, and the new change in admissions policies further alters who comes to BLS."

According to Eric, 60% of the seventh-grade class that entered BLS this fall was white. This figure is larger than the percentages of white students admit-



Young Leaders of Color protest the end of the use of race as a factor in the Controlled Choice Student Assignment Plan at BPS Headquarters.

of Color vice-president Eric Thai. The Young Leaders of Color, a BLS club, is working to change the policies that Eric says causes BLS admissions policies to "create an unfair advantage for certain groups within the Metro-Boston community."

Under the leadership of club president Kedesha Malcolm, YLOC is working to raise community awareness about BLS admissions policies. Says Eric, "Both the BLS administration and BPS board claim that admissions policies should reflect the communities in Boston. According to censuses, more than half of Boston's population is com-

ted in previous years under quota guidelines.

The Young Leaders of Color held a conference in October to discuss and raise awareness of admissions issues and gather support and new ideas. This "think tank" led to increased publicity about the struggle for equal admissions policies. Members of YLOC follow the news closely as they plan the club's next move, and keep the larger picture of racial and social injustice clearly in mind.

"We fight for not only racial equity in education, but also economic and social equity. Low income families are also a group we help, along with

Show Me The Money

By Megann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

One of the greatest things about Boston Latin School is the extremely strong Alumni Association who support the school. Many improvements have been made here thanks in part to the tremendous generosity of Latin School graduates. The 46,000-square-foot addition and renovation at Latin School are being aided by the generous contribution of Harry Keefe and the Pons Privatus Campaign of the Boston Latin School Association, whose goal is to raise \$20 million for improvements to the school. The campaign aims to raise money for the new Library Media Center, for the Arts programs, new facilities in the addition, and a renovation to the main building.

Our present library is only 3,803 square feet and is not enough for over 2400 students. The new library media center will be over 12,000 square feet and incorporate more technology. The arts have also suffered greatly at this school; the campaign's goal is to increase funding to expand the program. New science laboratories and a new cafeteria, as well as renovations in the existing building, are also planned.

Improvements have already

been made. Many sophomores and juniors are able to benefit from the Schwabel/William University of Pennsylvania College Search Center. This center is a rich for information about colleges. We also have Bruce McKinnon and other speakers there to talk about the college process. The alumni want Latin School students to have every advantage possible when it comes to college, and the Schwabel Center is a tremendous part of that effort.

Another great program is the Facing History and Ourselves Program which was initiated by Sheldon Seevak. Not only is there a new class that is focused on toleration and understanding, there is also a contest in which students create an interactive website. I was part of this contest last year and the project was to create an informational internet page about a person who has made an impact on society. This contest is open to everyone, and at the end of the program I had the chance to meet Mr. Seevak. He told students that, "My wife and I are honored to be a part of this."

Due to these great alumni and the association, Boston Latin is able to get the additional funding to such innovative programs for students, and will continue to do so as we enter this new millennium, and with it, new levels of investment by BLS alumni.

Black, Hispanic, and Asian minority groups," explains Thai.

The club's goals and philosophy were shaped in part by an American Government AP class in which twentieth-century politics and race policies were a major focus. It was in this class that Malcolm recruited Eric, who remarks that he has gotten in touch with his own Asian heritage through his work with the group. He has also noticed a

disturbing trend among the student body: "There is a general lack of interest by the Asian student body, and that makes YLOC's job much harder."

The Young Leaders of Color emphasize unity as essential to achieving equality in education. Says Thai, "We need everyone to work together, and that is the only way we can accomplish anything."

Young Leaders of Color meets after school every Wednesday in room 236.

Teacher Spotlights



Mr. Osowieki

Subject Taught: Physics
Education: University of Connecticut, U.S. Navy.
Favorite Aspect of Boston Latin: Doubling as a BLS teacher and coach.
Hopes or Plans for this Year: This year, he hopes to get students excited for physics. His curriculum will emphasize real world applications to help on their way to adulthood.



Mr. Michael Stone

Subjects Taught: Visual Arts
Education: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. Hamden Hall, School of Visual Arts, Columbia University, NYC.
Favorite Aspect of Boston Latin: Diversity among the students and faculty.
Favorite Quote or Saying: Will it matter what I was.
Hopes or Plans for this Year: I hope I am teaching at BLS to see the students I have this year graduate.



Mr. Gibosse

Subjects Taught: Algebra I, Algebra II
Education: Northeastern University (BSEE), Cambridge College (M.M.) (Master in Management)
Favorite Aspect of Boston Latin: My son graduated from here; he was my first contact with BLS. Here there is discipline and respect and for the most part students are eager to learn to advance and the administration is also structured toward that goal.
Favorite quote or saying: "From all the places I worked before BLS gets my heart." Even though I still have a lot to learn about the structure.
Hopes or plans for this year: From now, I hope to spend many years at BLS and help them reach their noble goal. Not easy but worthwhile.



Ms. Xu

Subjects Taught: Madarin-Chinese
Education: Born and educated in China, attended Tufts University
Favorite Aspect of Boston Latin: That the students are very cooperative, motivated, respectful, and of course-wonderful.
Favorite quote or saying: "If I hear, I forget it; If I see it, I understand; I do it, I remember it."
Hopes or plans for this year: She optimistically looks forward to a very productive year.

World AIDS Day

By Emily Claire Hicks, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

December 1, 1999 was World AIDS Day, and the Gay/Strait Alliance was taking part through the Red Ribbon Drive for AIDS Awareness. On December 1, GSA passed out red ribbons and asked for donations to help with the fight against AIDS. The first World AIDS Day was in 1988 on the first of December and has been on that day every year since then. Each year has a different theme and this years theme is "Listen, Learn, and Live: World AIDS Campaign with Children and Young People". This day was established to bring messengers, hope, solidarity, and understanding about AIDS to the world. Also the day was promoted by the Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention to make communicating and exchanging information and experiences easier. This is the basic idea of AIDS Awareness.

Why the red ribbons? Simply, the Red Ribbons are the international symbol of AIDS awareness. People wear it to demonstrate their care and concern. It also is worn to remind others of the great need to be aware of AIDS and how their support and commitment is important too.

Show your support for AIDS awareness throughout December.

If you're interested in finding out more about AIDS here are some good sites for you to check out:

General AIDS Sites:

*Aegis - AIDS Education Global Information Site— www.aegis.com
HIV Insite— www.HIVinsite.uvsvf.edu
The Body: A Multimedia AIDS and HIV resource—www.thebody.com/cgi-bin/body.cgi
UNAIDS— www.unaids.org/index.html*

Searchable AIDS:

*DatabaseAegis Search— www.aegis-com/search
COC AIDS prevention news database—
www.cdcnnpn.org/db/public/dnmain.htm*

Carribean Roots for Year 2000

By the Officers of the Carribean Club
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS



Mr. Jonathan Bonds

Subjects Taught: U.S. History
College attended: University of Hawaii
Favorite Aspect of Boston Latin: Reputation for strong academic focus of the school.

Since its founding in 1994 at the request of over a hundred students, the Carribean Club has been introducing all of the cultures of the Carribean Sea to the Boston Latin School. The Carribean Club also acts as a support group for all of its members to motivate and encourage them to succeed through activities such as the mentoring program, school-wide activities, and community service.

For the past six years, Caribbean Club has been diligently involved in giving back to the community, which has worked so hard to build into what it is today. One of our most celebrated traditions is our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, which is a social gala for both the senior citizens



and the members of the club. On November 18, we continued that tradition at Cardinal Mederios in Dorchester. It can be easily said that our efforts did not go without appreciation because photographs of the dinner are on display in their lounge.

The Carribean Club participates every year in the can drive sponsored by the City of Boston. We are proud to say we collected over 700 cans, which helped the homeless shelters of Boston. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Boston Latin School Community for their support in making this can drive succes. The Carribean Club plans to acheive much more, though its members fondly look upon these activities as the key to their success.

If you would like to learn more about the Carribean culture, come to our meetings, which are held every other Wednesday in room 202. All are welcome

Mr. Ordway Speaks in Support for Organ Donors

Ryan DiAngelis, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"When I was first put on the waiting list [for my lung transplant] I was told it would take two and a half to three years. It took four and a half."

Meet Mr. Ordway, a humorous computer teacher with a story to tell. Mr. Ordway has been living with Bronchiectasis, a lung disease which scars the bronchial tubes, making it difficult to breathe. The patient is left with little energy and the inability to perform simple everyday tasks.

"Prior to the operation, virtually 95% of my energy was focused on breathing-after that, there's not much left. Now my breathing is as normal as anyone else. I couldn't walk and talk at the same time. Now I can walk, talk, and chew gum.

"Most lung diseases are very slow-they take things away from you slowly. Things relatively simple for others become very difficult. You begin to appreciate the little things in life-picking up a child, doing laundry, taking a walk. You become more dependent upon others. You appreciate relationships more."

Although he is extremely grateful to his family and friends, Ordway admits that there is a



fineline between being helpful and being overbearing. "It's a very sensitive issue," says Ordway. "most of all, the patient wants to be normal. No wants to become dependent. When you take over a task that the individual can't do, it's another indication that the disease is getting worse. Support ... commuhica-

tion, being able to listen to that person talk is important. Family can't fix the disease," adding with a chuckle, "short of going out with a rifle and picking a good candidate."

Unfortunately, many people are not aware of the importance of organ donation. Mr. Ordway suggests taht anyone interested in helping out should "contact New England Organ Bank. They are always looking for people to advertise-their bggest problem is spreading awareness."

Mr. Ordway cautions that "a transplant is not a cure, but rather a substitution. There is a lifetime connection between the person and the disease." Today, however, Mr. Ordway is feeling healthy and is happy to be in the classroom.

"I really want to thank the administration, the faculty, and my students from last years Computer Lit classes. Everyone was very tolerant and supportive. Kids in my classes sent print outs when I was in the hospital. I had them posted on the walls-they really raised my spirits when I saw them."

If you are itnerested in learning about organ donation, or would like more information, contact the New England Organ Bank at 1-800-446-6362.

Resources for Internet Research at the BLS Library

By Eugene Kreydin, II
STAFF WRITER

Besides a great printed collection, this year the Library and Media Center at BLS will provide Boston Latin students with at least eight Internet information resources for free. This group of vast Internet databases will offer information on a variety of subjects from almost all branches of science and mathematics to literary criticism and world history.

For detailed articles on almost every subject that is taught at BLS, students can check out www.infotrack.galenet.com. This extensive database provides them with information on contemporary authors, astronomy, health, religion, law, history, and current events. It may even help if a student needs to find the revenues of a certain business that can be as small as the neighborhood drugstore. It also enables us, as students, to read thousands of articles from various newspapers and magazines. Infotrack's parent company "Galenet" www.galenet.gale.com also has a huge database of its own. Its three separate resources focus on Contemporary Literary Criticism, almost all branches of Science and Mathematics, as well as different aspects of World History.

The Library and Media center also pays for a database oriented specifically at social science. Its Internet address is www.facts.com. There students can find out more about social happenings of this century and even read magazine and newspaper articles about every major event from 1980 to 1999. The news database of facts.com is updated every hour with the latest news from the Reuters.

The Boston Globe website (www.mlin.lib.ma.us/cgi-bin/carl_access.pl) access to which is offered to our library for free, will provide students with Globe articles published in the last few years. Just entering a keyword will bring up a list of full-

text articles that contain the word the student is seeking.

This year, the BLS Library and Media Center also provides access to two huge encyclopedia-like websites, namely Bell and Howell Proquest (proquest.umi.com) and the Electric Library (www.elibrary.com/s/k12). Both of these databases contain several electronic encyclopedias, but what is more, students can also find full-text articles from hundreds of local, national, and even international publications here. One of the key features of the two databases is that they allow members to search their entire collection, or select to search only the reference materials or periodicals.

If a student is looking for a good declamation piece he or she can take a look at www.bestpoetry.com. On this website visitors can search for poems dating from as far back as the 15th century to the most recent works. Students can also look for poetry on almost any subject and by any author. Once they are done with the search, students will be provided with a full-text poem, its explanation, and a short note on the poet's life.

Britannica is one of the best encyclopedias out there, and now it is available on-line for free at www.eb.com. Not only does this website allow to view thousands of in-depth articles, it will also search for separate web pages that concern the subject that the visitor is researching.

Unfortunately the databases are available to BLS students for a limited time only. These resources require huge amounts of money, and the accreditation grant given to our library by the City of Boston is only expected to last for another two years or so.

In an interview with the librarians, Ms. Moniz said: "We have to make use of it [the accreditation grant] while we can." What is being provided to us is a great opportunity; so let's not allow the great efforts of the BLS library go to waste.

A Visit to the Colonies: Bringing History to Life

By Lydia Brooks, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Many times in the learning process facts, figures, and statistics are merely read and passively remembered for the moment; gone, it seems are the field examples and actual hands on ex-



Students ride in a horse-drawn carriage in colonial Jamestown.

periences that would otherwise enrich seemingly dull and meaningless topics. However, one history teacher at BLS, Mr. Fulton, succeeded at enlivening the subject of history by planning a field trip based on the history of the colonies. This excursion proved to be a wonderful learning experience for interested Class IV students.

Leaving Boston early Veteran's Day morning, Mr. Fulton, along with 14 parent chaperones accompanied approximately 100 Boston Latin School history and civics students on a group field trip. This successful and informative trip allowed the students to understand the development of the lower eastern colonies of America and how they each characterized who we [as a nation] are today. In addition, the students could compare and contrast, by visiting the different colonies, different religions as well as economical, social, and ethical development.

Amish Country, a proprietary colony in Pennsylvania, was the first stop for the group after a relaxing six hour bus ride. In Amish Country the group was led on a structured tour of the villages in the area. Students were trans-

ported back in time, and saw older houses and the construction of wagons and barns.

After spending the night in a hotel in Baltimore, the next stop was Williamsburg, Virginia, a royal colony. There they visited the historical Jamestown Plantation, where the students saw how muskets were fired,

learned how leather was tanned, and had a chance to scrape fur off of leather for baskets. In addition to being awed by the many different tools used by the Indians on the land during that era, the group had the honor of boarding one of the ships that had carried colonists from England over to

Jamestown during colonization. And to add to their educational experience, students saw the country's second oldest college as well as the oldest tavern in the country, Shield's Tavern. To augment what they had learned in class, the students learned more about taxes during that era by visiting the Governor's Palace, historically known for emptying the colonists of their tax dollars. And by the end of the day the bunch was being led on a "Ghost Tour" of the houses at Jamestown where they were told stories of ghosts that had supposedly inhabited them.

Finally the time of departure drew near and the group headed off for Maryland again, stopping in Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell and Constitution Hall. They finally arrived back safely in Boston.

When asked what his favorite part of the trip was one student replied, "Colonial Williamsburg and the Liberty Bell." Mr. Fulton enjoyed the trip as much as he has enjoyed the other trips he had gone on before with BLS students and stated, "We learned a lot, every trip we learn something."

College Preparation Overkill

Jonathan Yee, V
STAFF WRITER

In the world of education, there may be no higher pressure than that of getting into college. Every year, more and more American students enroll in institutions of higher learning. Many seniors know the pressure to get into highly competitive schools such as Harvard, MIT, Stanford, and Duke can be absolutely mind-blowing. Thus the question becomes, what would you do to be accepted into the college of your dreams? With these circumstances in mind, a situation like the one pioneered by Achieva was almost inevitable.

Achieva is a small private company in California, founded by two former tutors. Consisting of teams of former guidance counselors and students, it's somewhat of a combination of tutoring, guidance, college advisory, and Ann Landers. Sign yourself up in your freshman year of high school for around \$5,000 and Achieva will micromanage nearly every detail of your academic life, with the ultimate aim of admission to the college of your choice. Their teams (which often sport graduates of elite schools such as Harvard, Amherst, and Tufts) advise you on everything from a proper bedtime and enhancement of your academic performance, to how to approach teachers for letters of recommendation. They will even select the best courses, clubs, sports, and activities for you, all with the

goal of a snazzy profile for the college admissions officers. The service isn't cheap: a year long senior program costs more than \$2,000. However, Achieva claims that last year, all students who were assisted were admitted to college, and an incredible 85% of them got their first or second choice. With its Californian success, the company plans to expand to 250 centers nationwide by 2001.

Critics of Achieva say that while the company's goals are laudable, the entire issue, especially their intense micromanagement of students' school life, is an overreaction. They believe that the success of high-priced private services like Achieva shows that too many parents today are obsessively focused on success for their children, no matter the cost. This "get into an ivy league university or else" mentality may also mean even further disadvantages for poorer students, who can only dream of being able to afford Achieva.

Author Nicolas Lemann thinks the problem is simply laziness. "The parents get obsessed and it turns the high school years into a nightmare. The problem for those parents is laziness. You go to the store and buy the guidebook. What's so hard about that?"

Regardless, with Achieva's phenomenal success, other college admission assistance industry giants like Kaplan and Princeton Review are

Intensive Competition for College Applicants

By Bonnie Yu, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

A fast-growing economy, a population boom, and a growing desire to attend a good college for success has stiffened the competition for acceptance to the country's better colleges. There is a good chance that the trend will only strengthen over the next ten years. Demographers call the current generation of students either the baby boomlet or the baby boom echo because they are the children of the generation that stood out so prominently after World War II.

Colleges reject top high school seniors, and state universities are raising admission requirements. A while ago, colleges were worried about finding competent students; now they are overwhelmed with applications. Seniors and parents suspect that the last college application period was the most competitive in the country's history.

The information so far shows the difficulties of entering college today. The number of students enrolled in four-year institutions of higher education is at an all-time high: 14.8 million registered for classes this fall, up from the record 14.6 million in the fall of 1998.

College counselors and others believe that crowding at top colleges results because it is now so easy for students to apply to college. Computers and the Internet help students apply to many colleges at a time. In addition, the desire for "brand names" is greater than ever, and top universities are increasing their financial aid as their endowments rise with the stock market.

Tufts University in Medford, Mass., reports that it has turned away one third of the valedictorians who applied, as well as a number of applicants with perfect 1,600 S.A.T. scores. The college received 13,500 applications for 1,200 vacancies, which is less than they accepted last year. However, a larger number of

those accepted decided to attend. There are ninety more freshmen than beds, and there is a housing shortage for the fall semester.

The increased willingness of students to apply to colleges shows the nation's increased prosperity. Colleges today have far more money to offer in scholarships, and parents have more money with which to assist their children in studies and other necessities.

also planning to start similar services.

Who knows? It may be that in the future, even students at our proud Boston Latin will be using Achieva. Is the "old fashioned" method of getting into college going down the drain? Only time will tell, but as a Stanford admissions officer says, "All this is crazy. Getting into college is not rocket science."

First Night 2000

By Suzanne Chan, II
Contributing Writer

First Night is a New Year's Eve celebration held every year in Boston. For the coming millennium, it will be held for three days rather than one as in previous years. From December 31 until January 2, there will be many attractive events, such as fireworks, the ice sculpture displays at Boston Common, and live performances. The key to these

activities is a First Night Button. It can be purchased for only \$20. Please visit the web site www.firstnight.org for a complete listing of locations of First Night Button retailers. This button will unlock the doors to three days of entertainment to treasure as you start a fresh, new millennium.

One of the main events will be the spectacular displays of fireworks. For those who love these beautiful fiery lights in the sky, you will be thrilled to hear that First Night 2000 will be presenting four displays of fireworks. They will take place on New Year's Eve at 7 p.m. at Boston Common as well as midnight over the Boston Harbor. Also, on both New Year's Day and the day after, there will be more fireworks held at 7 p.m. over at the Boston Harbor.

Prepare yourselves to be amazed by one of the most immense ice

sculptures ever made. It will be located at Boston Common's Frog Pond. This ice sculpture will portray Father Time riding through a gate into the new millennium in a chariot. At City Hall Plaza, 200 candles sculpted from ice by hand will be on display.

Do you love to dance? Then, go to the Hynes Convention Center at Copley Square on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and dance until you drop! Live bands will be performing there.

Shouts to classical music fans! The Boston Pops orchestra, led by Keith Lockhart, will be performing at Symphony Hall. During the evening of New Year's Eve, you will be able to watch the concert at the FleetBoston from two enormous screens.

Heard enough about the Y2K bug? If so, do

you know what this dilemma is all about? For those who want to witness the defeat of the Y2K bug as well as its victory, there will be a live experiment called Y2K Pops! 101 computers, each one distinctive, will be set up. These computers will play music, like an orchestra, controlled by a server. Viewers will witness which computers will endure into the new millennium and which ones will not.

Poetry Wanted! If you write poems and wish to share them with the public, you may do so at the Boston Public Library. You will be able to stand before an audience with jazz music in the background and present your poem.



Rencontre De L'an 2000 Avec Des Jeunes Français

Dear Students,

From Thursday, April 13th to Friday, April 21st, 2000, French Exchange Students from Strasbourg will be arriving and staying in Boston. The exchange program not only benefits the students coming to the United States, but also the students who are currently studying French, and who will be traveling to France in June, 2000. If you are interested in hosting a student, or simply have questions, please contact Barry Bridgelal (336), Yiting Jin (201), Stephanie Maniekis (209), Ms. Brun, (202), Dr. Carroll (103), or Ms. Williams (G7).

The Return of the Lampoon

The Lampoon, cherished stronghold of fun and farce, is back and is in dire need of submissions.

Give your humorous writings and art to Mike Bell in 336.

The setting will be like a social nightclub. You will also have an opportunity to post your poems for public viewing.

After New Year's Day, the First Night Button is still valid. It will serve as your key to discounts at specified restaurants and stores. Some of the discounts are offered until March 2000. The First Night Button is valuable. It allows you to participate in many festivities and save you money. It is also a collectible!

The Year 2000 is not only a new year, decade, nor century. It is a new millennium! Before we say farewell to this millennium and count down to a new one, attend First Night. You will be enjoying one of the best times in your life.

Class Committee Chair



Samantha Joseph

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

No one ever hears too much about class committee. When the time comes for senior class elections, class committee members are quietly elected in their respective homerooms, while the candidates for office post loud posters and rally support with speeches. Then, their names are silently added to the ballot, so that one may become their leader. Samantha Joseph is that leader.

This strong, popular senior was quietly elected to the office of Class Committee Chair, a position that is not given the recognition and credit that it deserves.

Samantha entered BLS as a sixie, and pushed through each year, making her way, reaching for that omnipresent goal - graduation day. And now she's glad that she stuck it out. Looking back, she has realized just how much her experience at BLS has given her. She says, "If I had not remained at BLS, I would not

(Continued on Page 12)

BLS Class of 2000 Officers

By Bisi Oyedele, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Drudys Nicolas Vernet, or Dru, as most members of the student population know her, was born and raised in Venezuela. At the tender and impressionable age of 10, she, along with the rest of her family, packed her belongings and migrated to the United States. Like most foreign born people, she struggled to overcome the initial barriers. The problems of the language and cultural differences were not enough to slow down this energetic and determined individual.

Drudy's ascension to presidency was the culmination of years of planning. Since her fivesic year, she had designs on the office and took steps to increase her odds in the elections. Her avid campaigning focused and reflected her true nature. Her small, gentle appearance hides a fiercely determined and proud individual.

As president, Drudys has not stopped her diligent effort to restore prestige and importance to her position. She meets with Mrs. Kelly and often can be seen with the Senior Class Advisor Mr. Keitt. In fact, Mr. Keitt said, "I have not

President

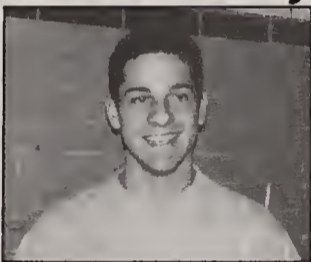


Drudys Nicolas-Vernet

seen one like her in the past five years." Aside from her duties as president, she continues to display her leadership abilities as Vice President of Show Choir, a more than vocal member of Gospel Choir, a member of TAG, AKS, A.S.I.A., Fashion/Talent Club, and several other activities.

Drudys Nicolas is an individual who believes that hard work produces success, but even she realizes that she can't do it alone. She is selfless, crediting the Class Committee members and fellow class officers for the progress the class has made. Hopefully, Drudy's stint as president will leave a foundation for would-be-leaders to emulate.

Secretary



James Duane

Haitian Sensation. Jimmy D. Best Rear View. Class Secretary. However one recognizes him, James Duane is one of the most outstanding and accomplished individuals in the BLS Class of 2000. During my years at BLS, I have been privileged to meet many amazing, talented, and intelligent classmates. James exemplifies these qualities.

His challenging schedule says it all. This year, he is taking three Advanced Placement classes (Government, Modern European History, and English), Physics, Greek, and Statistics. James is a hard-working and dedicated student as well as being creative. Last year in English Honors, he gave a hilarious performance of *Macbeth* to the tune of an Eminem song, clad in a kilt. Despite his challenging workload, he is an active, versatile athlete. He participates in wrestling, baseball, and soccer. He has played soccer since the eighth grade and served as JV Captain for two years. During the past football season, James was a regular and devoted spectator in the BLS stands at home and away games. He has also been in the History Club, French Club, and the Rugby Appreciation Society.

His interest in political science and government is one of the reasons he ran for class secretary. He believes, "Senior year is important and special. Part of my job along with rest of the class officers is to make it as easy and as enjoyable as possible." He adds the need

"to focus on class unity and to work on fund-raising which is the most important part." He also wants to organize senior events. James' short-term goals include "getting into college." But most importantly, he comments on senior year, "I want to enjoy this while it lasts and worry about everything else later."

Years from now perhaps we will look back at our class and remember each other. It will be difficult to overlook James on account of his achievements and succes. However, James himself is unforgettable—his caring, open hearted, and supportive nature. Of all my fond memories of James, my first encounter of him stands out. It was on the Boston-Strasbourg Exchange Program in the ninth grade. When we were in Paris, James never failed to amuse me and always had something "insightful" to say. On the Eiffel Tower, it felt like we were on top of the world looking down. That is how James seems to me: able to reach height because of his hard work and dedication. James impressed me with his kindness and sense of humor four years ago and he continues to impress me everyday.

By Lee Guo, II
STAFF WRITER

What is the very first adjective you think of when Thomas Imahiyerobo, Vice President of the class of 2000, is mentioned? Would the word gregarious or friendly come to mind? Perhaps you would say altruistic or remarkable? Upon first impression, Thomas is undoubtedly one of the most responsible fellow schoolmates I have ever met. Yet, although he is the vice president of the senior class, Thomas has a number of other great attributes to make his classmates proud.

In his position as VP, Thomas has a vast array of ambitious plans and goals for his fellow seniors. In general, Thomas's main goal is to facilitate the year for his classmates. He wants to make senior year as painless and smooth as possible by providing fundraisers, regaining senior privileges, and helping students with college preparation. He wants to build a tight bond between fellow classmates and encourage their mutual support. On a more personal basis, Thomas wishes to leave a "legacy" for being a VP that does not only do his job, but also does it well. Thomas is always ready to listen to suggestions and offer support. He wants to be remembered for being a VP of the people, with the people, and for the people!

When Thomas Imahiyerobo started out sixie, he struggled like most BLS scholars. Along with his determination to succeed academically, he also tried his best to be friendly with every-

Vice-President



Thomas Imahiyerobo

one. Fortunately, he is gifted with an amiable personality and by the end of his first year he had discovered a multitude of friends. Thomas believes in being a friend in order to win a friend. He also believes BLS is about making lasting relationships. Thus, it is no surprise to find him voted "Most Popular" for the class of 2000.

As the years passed by Thomas excelled in his academic studies and met new friends. Despite his loaded schedule (Biology AP, English AP, Latin AP, and History AP), Thomas still finds time to devote to the biology lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is also enrolled in many extracurricular activities including the Young Leaders of Colors club, which he helped to establish. Yet behind all the hard work he has put in throughout the years, there has been a constant motto that kept him going, "Everything you do, you have to commit to, and everything you commit to, you do your best."

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

You've all seen her; or at least heard her. Kathleen Banfield: Boston Latin School Scholar, soccer star, party-giver extraordinaire, and now, senior class treasurer. All seniors must remember Kathleen's tossing aside of the microphone and cries of senior class U-N-I-T-Y! at the class officer assembly. Kathleen has a voice that demands to be heard, and it has to do with more than the fact that she is one of the loudest, if not the loudest, senior we have.

Kat, as she is known to many, entered BLS as a sixie, and quickly made herself known by being the only eighth grader on the Varsity girls soccer team the following fall. Her dedication to this team, and others, shows the dedication and commitment that she plans to bring to the office of treasurer. Her leadership skills were proven this past fall when she co-captained the team, as she not only inspired her team and aroused the school spirit that is hidden deep in each of us, but also by making sure that each of her fellow players was as dedicated to the game as she is.

Kathleen is one of the few who knows how to balance herself. Despite the fact that half the senior class calls her before they finalize any weekend plans, she knows here to draw the line. Kathleen is self-aware - she knows her limits, she knows when to take things seriously. She can stay in and do homework all weekend, and feel good about it. That's who Kat is - she's true to herself. Anyone who knows Kathleen knows that despite the fact that she knows when to limit herself, she is one awesome time (why else would the rest of the senior class rely on her for weekend activity??!!). As the official Class of 2000 "Class Clown," Kathleen has always been known to make anyone and everyone laugh - whether it be good-heartedly poking a little fun at a friend or wearing certain items as "crazy hats." Laughter is her key to reliev-

Treasurer



Kathleen Banfield

ing the stress that is senior year. That's who Kathleen Banfield is. She can be serious and she can be a full-fledged comedienne. So what does all this mean? How does this have any bearing on her ability to perform her duties as class treasurer? It means everything. As treasurer, Kathleen knows when things to need to be done, and how to get them done. She knows how to listen to her fellow students, and is never afraid to voice not only their, but her own concerns. She is willing to offer the craziest of ideas in the name of the senior class. She is responsible enough to be trusted with the money and fun enough to think of not only great ways that it can be spent but also interesting ways to raise it and conserve it.

Kathleen has high hopes for this year. She has ideas to promote her beloved class U-N-I-T-Y, and plans that are just waiting to be put into action. As she put it, "This is my senior year. And it is going to rock." And because it's Kathleen, I don't have a doubt in my mind that it will.

To Mr. Redd's English Classes:
The Argo wishes to thank those students who contributed such well-written Letters to the Editor. Unfortunately, due to spacial constraints, we were unable to print them this issue, but will select a number to print in our next issue.

Sheriff Matt Gillooly: The Man, The Mystery, The Oddball; A Self-indulgent Introspective

By Matt Gillooly, I
TECHNICAL EDITOR

Greetings to my most beloved and esteemed classmates. I, the Sheriff, your loyal public servant, would like to extend to you my utmost appreciation for being trusted with this most important of offices. While no person was officially named Sheriff on election day, I think it's safe to say we all know who came out on top. To all the seniors who voted for me: thank you. To all those who didn't: what were you thinking? Ah, but I digress. I realize that there are many loyal readers of the Argo who may have no idea what I am talking about. Read on, for here is the true story of Matt "the Sheriff" Gillooly.

I just realized that the Argo could end up being used as a pirate hat, too. Maybe by drunken bums. Hmmmmmm, recycling at its best.

Well, then. What can be said about me. My father was a relentlessly, self-improving boulangerie owner from Belgium with low-grade narcolepsy and a penchant for buggery. My mother was a 15 year-old French girl named Chloe with webbed feet. My father would womanize. He would drink. He would make outrageous claims like he invented the question mark. Sometimes, he would accuse chestnuts of being lazy - the sort of general malaise that only the genius possess and the insane lament. My childhood was typical - summers in Rangoon, luge lessons. In the spring, we'd make meat helmets. When I was insolent, I was placed in a burlap bag and beaten with reeds. Pretty standard, really.

But, it was election time, one year ago, when I began to ponder the questionable and question the unpondered. I darn well knew it that I would have no chance to be elected during my own senior year ... that is, no chance to be elected to an office that anyone else was running for. After much brainstorming and idle headscratching, I determined that the only legal way for me to have no competition was to create my own office. Ah, it was great. At the moment that this idea of ideas sprang into life, I knew that I would be the Sheriff, and that it would be kinda cool.

Well, it is kinda cool being the unofficial Sheriff. It would have been cooler to REALLY be the Sheriff, but eh ...

So I began my campaign of all campaigns, determined to become Sheriff or make a jerk out of myself trying. I hung up posters, handed out stickers. The rest is history. All of it is history. And you will be my minions! Mwahaha!

1.) Butchered thoughtlessly from *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*

I WISH ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mrs. Middleton ("MO") wishes to really thank the students who are so helpful to me with my bags and "Aunt Suzie." God Bless You All.. Happy Holidays. Nez M.

Phillis Wheatley Poem Rediscovered

By Mimi Lai, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*Now muse divine, thy heav'nly aid impart,
The feast of Genius, and the play of Art.*

Sitting there in the pews, one could not help but feel awe as those first lines of Phillis Wheatley's "Ocean" were read aloud for the first time in 225 years. That evening history came back to life once again for the listeners gathered at the Old South Meeting House.

The program had begun with a musical prelude featuring a violin, cello, and viola; the last being played by our own Ms. White of the Music Department. During the course of the evening, we were introduced to the remarkable life of Phillis Wheatley, the first black American poetess, and told how her once lost poem "Ocean" had resurfaced.

Brought to America on the slave schooner *Phillis* in 1761, the girl

had been sold to the wealthy Wheatley family of Boston. Though a slave, she was taught how to read and write by the



Wheatleys' daughter, Mary. She was also taught Latin, perhaps through the Wheatleys' son, Nathaniel, an sions to classical mythology. Her education and literary accomplishments were unusual for a young woman in colonial America, especially for one that was a slave.

The program continued with singing and a skit about Wheatley's life performed by students of the Phillis

Wheatley Middle School. The conclusion and the highlight of evening, however, was what had brought everyone together - the first ever reading and viewing of "Ocean."

Phillis Wheatley had composed "Ocean" in 1773, after returning from a visit to England. There, the 19-year-old slave had hobnobbed with the elite of English society and had promoted the publishing of her new volume, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

The 70-line poem had been thought to be lost forever until it reappeared at a New York Christie auction in May 1998. The poem written in Wheatley's own graceful hand, was bought for \$68,500 by Mark Mitchell. Through his generosity, the poem can be viewed at the Old South Meeting House year round.

A visit is well worth it. Seeing the piece up close was like taking a very special glimpse back into the past and into the mind of an extraordinary woman.

Parents Fight to End the MCAS

By Rebecca Greening, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the October 31st edition of the *Boston Globe*, there was an article of interest to anyone taking the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) test. It should be of particular interest to the class of 2003 and younger because that year, it becomes a statewide requirement to pass the exam. Many students have voiced their complaints about the MCAS to their parents, who have in turn transferred them to the Department of Education. In Cambridge, it seems that parents have been pushed over the edge.

The article titled "Cambridge Parents Pledge to End MCAS" shows that some parents find the test outrageous because "parents want a good education for their children and want something better than a one shot test deciding the fate of all students." These parents believe enough in the supposed inability of the test to assess children accurately that they have formed groups such as the "Cambridge Parents Against the MCAS" and "The Coalition for Authentic Reform in Education." A parent from Cambridge stated, "We want the comprehensive assessment system promised by education."

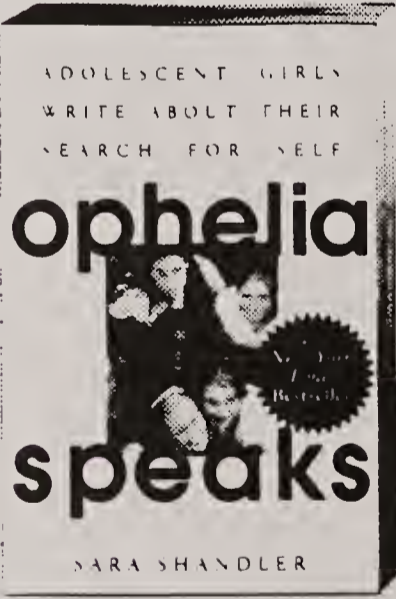
In Allston-Brighton, parents have held forums to discuss public education-related problems with BPS Superintendent Dr. Thomas W. Payzant. They raised the question "Were the schools trying to teach to the MCAS instead of developing more rounded commitment?" Though Payzant still strongly supports the test and schools' preparation for it, he suggested that parents write to him at his office on Court Street.

The MCAS is very new to Massachusetts and is still being used as a "test" test. If enough students and parents get together, there may yet be a change in the MCAS system.

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s p e a k s

Presidential Campaign 2000

By Lu Mei He, III and Samantha Johnson, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS



The upcoming presidential campaign in the year 2000 consists of four main candidates, including Bill Bradley, Al Gore, George W. Bush, and Pat Buchanan. The democratic candidates are Al Gore and Bill Bradley.

Al Gore is the vice-president of the United States. Gore grew up with politics in his veins in Tennessee. His father, Al Gore Sr., was a representative and later a prominent senator. He included his son in meetings with politicians, including the famous Kennedys. He was sent to an elite Washington prep school, where he received a formal education. Upon graduating, Gore attended

Harvard, and received his bachelors degree in government. He was elected as vice president in 1992. As vice president, Gore has continued to fight for the environment and taken the lead in fostering the growth of the Internet. Gore has also positioned himself on Medicare to ensure that the hospitals and nursing homes get the money they need. Despite these accomplishments, it is said that Gore's campaign is being dragged down by growing "Clinton fatigue", referring to the White House scandal in this year's impeachment trial. This so called "fatigue" indirectly aims at Gore. "They've seen [Gore] for eight years, it is almost impossible to come

up with a new idea that his boss hasn't already used, so he is an untenable situation," said Rep. James Moran, a Virginia Democrat interviewed on MSNBC on September 12.

In addition, Gore is being criticized for his increasingly rightward-tilting campaign. His choice of comrade is Carter Eskew, former PR for a tobacco company. Some liberals see his centrist swing as a slap in the face and an abuse of the connotation that being a Democratic candidate holds. On the other hand, New Jersey senator Bill Bradley's ideologies and issues have filled in the spaces left unoccupied by Gore for more liberal issues.

A former basketball star, Bradley cares about race issues and understands that connection between race and economics. He acknowledges the fact that the majority of the people in poverty are minorities and that they need special attention. He was one of the few Democrats to vote against Clinton's welfare "reform" package, which may have left parents who need the assistance without support. His main concern is assisting the Americans living in poverty, in particularly the 13.5 million children. By increasing the minimum wage one dollar in his first year, improving the welfare system, and providing health care for all citizens, he wants to lift over seven million children out of poverty in two terms. Some feel that though Bradley is being idealistic and is talking "Big Ideas," he seems the more liberal of the two, and therefore the better choice.



Nuclear Ban Treaty

By Jonathan Yee, V
STAFF WRITER

With the recent Senate defeat of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, many Americans are wondering if a new Cold War is rising. The treaty's defeat was cause for an angry address by President Clinton, and raised fears that nuclear tensions today will slip ever closer to war.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty called for complete elimination of all nuclear weapons testing by its signers. This would apply to both current nuclear powers and countries that have not yet developed them. With the recent US reluctance to keep the 1972 ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty with Russia intact, many feared that the Senate would refuse this treaty as well. The vote turned out to be almost completely partisan, with Democrats supporting the treaty and Republicans opposing it. Some even speculated that the Republicans dared to reject the treaty, which had elicited much effort from President Clinton, only to fulfill a grudge for their failure to convict him in the impeachment trial.

To understand the importance of this treaty, one has to examine the world scene today. The United States, Russia, China, England, France, India, and Pakistan have known tactical nuclear capability. Brazil, South Africa, Israel, Iraq, Iran, and North Korea are believed to be working on nuclear weapons. Japan could easily produce a nuclear weapon, but is prohibited by its 1945 constitution. The first seven countries have thousands of nuclear missiles among them, but have multiple safeguards in place to prevent accidental launches. This is not the case, however, in Pakistan and India. They are fundamentally different nations with a long history of distrust and border disputes, forming perhaps the most dangerous nuclear rivalry since the US-Soviet standoff. An unspoken but critical pur-

pose of the treaty was to relax tensions between the two.

The recent skirmish in Cashmere, a disputed border region, illustrated how dangerous the situation is. While fighting fierce battles in which neither country would admit it was involved, one misstep in policy could have easily led to all-out nuclear war and horrific destruction. India also claims that its nuclear weapons were designed as a deterrent to what they feel is a threat in China. China is another country with which India has had less than stellar border relations. On any given day, the Chinese-Indian border may be just as heavily guarded as the North-South Korean border. Pakistan and India were pressured into signing the treaty, but along with China and Russia, they refused to put it into effect unless the US did the same.

Now that the Senate has rejected the treaty, over two-thirds of the world's nuclear powers have refused to ratify, making the treaty essentially worthless. France and Britain, who signed and ratified with little debate, were especially shocked when the pleas of their Prime Ministers to the Senate to ratify were completely ignored. The most surprising statistic, however, may be that in a recent survey, almost 85% of the American public expressed support for the treaty's passing. Class V's Brian Pastore says, "I think because they rejected it, there'll be more testing and more risk of nuclear war." Another eighth-grader, Alex Bisaga, stated, "They should have passed it. Other countries will be trying to make nuclear weapons now."

Another attempt at a comprehensive treaty in the next few years seems futile, so the long-term implications for the future are not bright. It appears that nuclear disarmament is still one step away, and there are still too many weak links in the chain. For now, we can only hope that our lawmakers can swallow their doubts and re-approach this issue with resolve.

MCAS Results

(Continued from page 1)

schools had history in their curriculum before the exam. BLS recognized this dilemma ahead of time and prepared for this part of the exam through a "crash course" in U.S. History. As Dr. Lambert, Head of the History Department, commented, "the real tribute goes to Ms. Russell, who coordinated and prepared a mini-history prep course and to the students, who basically know how to write." The eighth grade teachers were also highly and enthusiastically praised for their help and support of the students. Much credit goes to these dedicated individuals, who tried to get the students ready in about three weeks. Some eighth grade history teachers included Mr. Fulton, Ms. Stuppard, Mr. Myers, Ms. Craven (substituting for Ms. Russell), and Ms. Gilligan. The eighth graders endured this preparation on top of their own academic work. Despite vague knowledge of the material, the BLS eighth graders placed 5th in the state in Social Studies. Six percent failed in social studies from Boston Latin, while forty-nine failed in the state. With a restructuring of the history curriculum, the students will soon be prepared for the material. Under the new curriculum, eighth graders will take U.S. History up to 1890. Ninth graders will be required to take World History I up to the year 700 and tenth graders will be required to take World History II from 700 to the present. Senior year will still offer the elective courses (Government, Economics, Modern European History, Economics, and Facing History) with the requirement of U.S. History. Ms. Russell noted, "wait until you see what they can do next year when they actually know the material better."

The BLS students were certainly helped by this collaboration of the entire BLS community. Teachers and parents provided exceptional support and help. As Dr. Lambert recalled from proctoring the exam, "the serious attitudes of the students, who were motivated and fought it out to the end." Ms. Russell also added, that the "students should be commended" for their work especially the eighth graders, who succeeded in a subject that they did not even had before. The students were willing and ready to do the work.

The exemplary performance by the students and the support of the BLS community deserve to be highly commended and recognized. This achievement can summed up by Mr. Fulton, who explained simply, "We are who we are ... when we are thrown a challenge—any challenge—we attack it and try our best. It's what makes this a great school."

Merry Xmas Every1! ESP. EASTIE!Same 2 all my friends from school,u no who u r!
LOVE ALWAYS!-DINA

Well, we finally did it. ..SENIORS ROCK TILL THE EARLY MORN! JEDI GAME!
Here we go: Italian 5, the HPC for being there,&Bill Sherman,(gone but not forgotten), to the Fat Heads, class of 2000, & my girls on the squad. Last but not least, to LF, my light & my strength. Kyle, welcome to The World! -Dave 329

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO MY FRIENDS AND ALL WHO CARES.HEY! PUT A SMILE ON THAT FACE, IT'S CHRISTMASTIME!~YING

HEY GIRLS! MERRY X-MAS! KG AR COD NP JM NL FP JM SB SC KG CM YO AG SR LUV U ALL! BERT-FINE! COURTNEY

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO: LIS,SUZY,ANN,LIN ANN,JOSH,THE LOVERS,SS,AS,AND EVERYONE ELSE!LOVE, LAUREN AND NIA

MERRY CHRISTMAS!:
Jenna,Katie,Courtney,Annie,Karina,Bonnie,Samantha,Brighid,Sara+ Rebecca luv natasha

Forum

GrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrR

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Sometimes in life, we are forced to make a choice between what we would like to do and something that can actually be applied to the real world. It would be nice if we could deck the halls of our public schools with mangers and menorahs around this time of year. It would be nice, but it would not practical and, in the minds of many people, it would not be right. As fast as you can say "separation of church and state," complaints will start arriving from every possible corner. There are just too many overly vocal politically correct people in this world to ever bring back anything remotely religious into our schools. Just think of the ammunition available: separation of church and state, it is not a school's job to teach religion or minority religions are being left out. There will also be outcries concerning the slippery slope that this would create, "Today they are hanging Christmas decorations, tomorrow teaches are leading prayers and next they will be preaching morning Mass in the cafeteria." Granted this is an exaggeration, but that will not stop people from saying it. We live in a world of political correctness, no matter how much we wish we lived in a world of ideals.

Let's face it, people get offended very easily. Two people could look at the same situation and one could be absolutely appalled while the other might stand around wondering what the big deal is. This is the same scenario found when discussing religion in schools. Unfortunately, it is impossible to make all of the people happy all of the time. It would be impossible to represent all religious schools of thought. Anyone who was left out would be offended, just as anyone who did not believe in religion would be offended. Many of us have no problem with seeing representations of different religious holidays around school, other people have moral and political problems with it and we cannot ignore them.

Since we cannot ignore the demands of either side, we must instead must try to compromise these situations in which no one wants to compromise. Let's talk concessions. We are in school only thirty hours a week, Thus, one is left with 138 hours a week of which they can devote as many hours as they please to Christmas caroling, driedle spinning or their Kwanzaa celebrations. So those in favor of religion can back off from celebrating their respective holidays so visibly. It now becomes the time for non-religious people to make a compromise. Individual time to pray in school is not so bad. There might be benefits in it for those who believe in various religions; and the rest of the students would not mind a few minutes to rest their overworked minds. If some students want to say a prayer in their head, they do not have to hear it and they do not have to participate. So we have come to some sort of understanding, silent time for prayer is fine, just do not call it that! Just give it some bland title that does not imply prayer, like "period of silent reflection," and everyone will be happy (for the moment).

The idea of posting the Ten Commandments in school is a bit more difficult to find a compromise. Aside from the idea of changing the name to something secular, some of the Ten Commandments are blatantly of Judeo-Christian teachings.. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath" at a public school is not acceptable. So if the advocates of this idea are willing to call them " Rules of Behavior" and must take out anything overtly religious, then these ideas will cease to be religious. Then why bother to get religion involved in the first place? If you really want to teach students rules of behavior, then teach them rules of behavior. Do not start an unnecessary controversy. It will lessen what you can achieve by adding a controversy that will outweigh what you had hoped to accomplish.

Religion is a wonderful experience for those who choose it, but one cannot press these ideals onto others. Be practical, be willing to compromise and you will accomplish more for everyone, Season's Greetings!

Religion in the Public Schools?
That is always a touchy subject.
Our faithful columnists put in
their two cents on this ever-
controversial issue.



By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The holiday season is here. Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa are all being celebrated. Yet in this age of political correctness, you would hardly know it in the public schools. Due to the separation of church and state, and because of the fear of offending anyone, there is no official mention of any of the aforementioned holiday celebrations. This is an awful way to go through a season of such happiness. The time has come for religion to be celebrated and not hidden in our public schools.

I am a practicing Catholic who takes his faith very seriously. I am mentioning this to make you aware of any bias that you may or may not perceive. I have my own beliefs and have no problem with others expressing theirs. If someone wants to say "Happy Chanukah," go right ahead. It is great when people talk about their religions. As a Catholic, I am not offended that a Jewish person talks about Chanukah. It is not as if that person is putting down my beliefs. In fact, I have no problem with menorahs being placed around the school. I would love to walk down the halls and see pictures of Christmas trees, menorahs and other holiday decorations. I doubt that most would be offended, and if someone is, then he or she needs to realize that no religion would be repressed; rather, all religions would be expressed. What is so wrong with that?

Why stop with holiday celebrations in school? I want time for school prayer. That's right-school prayer. Now, obviously I do not want teachers leading kids in the sign of the cross and such. Rather, students should be able to reflect in silent prayer. We could have five minutes set aside in homeroom for students and teachers to pray silently. This would be great for everyone. If you like to say a little prayer to start you off on the right foot for the day, then that is your time. If you do not want to pray, then you can just sit and think or rest. A period of silence and thought would be great for the morale of the student body. It would give time for all of us to just relax and mentally prepare for the day. No religion would be excluded. It would be a perfect way to allow some spiritual time without crossing that line of church and state. I know this time would allow kids to relax, and it may help many highly stressed students. With all the recent high-profile school violence cases, this prayer and relaxation time could make a difference for those stressed out and troubled students. It certainly would not hurt.

Expounding on that mention of school violence, there was recently the suggestion of posting the Ten Commandments in schools as a way of showing students right from wrong. That was quickly shot down as a way for Catholics to try to infiltrate the public schools. Well, I have to say that posting the Ten Commandments is not that bad an idea. Now I know you are saying "Oh, he's a Catholic; of course he is for it." Well, yes, that is true. This is an opinion column and that is my opinion. Of course, I am neither foolish nor bigoted, so I know that posting the Commandments would be impossible, as well as wrong. But I am sure a compromise can be found. There has to be a way to post some rules of behavior. Something should be done, whether it be incorporating rules from other religions or simply posting the Ten Commandments not as "the Ten Commandments," but rather as societal rules of behavior (my personal choice). What is wrong with teaching children ways to treat others? In my opinion, it is a cold person who objects to that. Putting up the Ten Commandments would be wrong, as well as unconstitutional. Posting some rules of behavior that are modeled on them, however, is not. We would be teaching students basic rules of behavior-ways to treat others fairly. I do not understand how that cannot be done nor why it should not be done. Religion is something that should be expressed, not repressed for the sake of political correctness.

Forum Question:
After whom should the new wing be named?



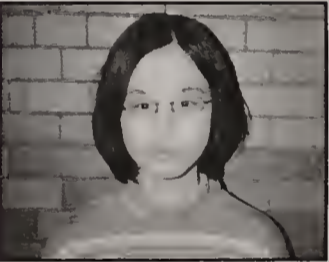
I think it should be named for Mr. Lee because he was a very dedicated teacher and he was loved by everyone.
-Ann Fountain, I



The building should be named for Mr. Contompasis, because of his contribution and dedication to Latin School.
- Gary Webster, II



The building should be named for Mr. Lee because he was a very good teacher and mentor. Many students looked up to him and respected him.
-Juliana Brody-Fialkin, III



The building should be named for Mr. Contompasis because he was our dedicated headmaster for many years, and this wouldn't have happened without him.
-Anita Yip, IV



The building should be named for the alumnus who gave the most money for it to show our respect and gratitude.
-Lecanne McHugh, V



The building should be named for Mr. Lee because he taught at BLS for a long time and was very respected.
-Rachel Koepki, VI

Racism Must Be Better Addressed at BLS

By Rose Costello, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are lots of things at this school we would just like to ignore. They are not nice things to talk about. They make us feel uncomfortable. They point out a societal character flaw; one that despite years of effort has festered and continued until it has become so deeply embedded in our lives that it cannot be removed.

I am talking about race. After years of affirmative action, the Boston Public Schools have become sufficiently integrated, but the racial barriers have sprung up just as high inside the schools. Through some mysterious subconscious decision, the students have divided themselves by race, sticking to their own kind.

We've all heard that to see the racial segrega-

tion at Latin School all you have to do is look at the lunch tables, but how many of you have everdone this? If you have, you have seen the truth of that statement. Perhaps it is because of the recent media attention towards race relations at Latin, but the students have divided themselves almost perfectly into social circles based on racial lines.

The true problem is not so much in the racial division itself, but the school community's unwillingness to recognize it. Whenever the subject of race comes up someone always gets defensive. The topic is one of such pain that people refuse to recognize that it is still to a certain extent an open wound. It is hard to admit that after years of striving for equality and integration we have still come up short. We *have* come up short however, and the only way we are going to finish what we started is by recognizing that.

In several of my classes the subject of race has come up during discussions. The outcome is al-

ways the same; someone feels that the topic is hitting too close to home. They go on the defensive about how racism is an issue of the past and that although it may still be present today, it certainly is not in our school. The teacher usually ends up cutting the debate short before someone gets offended and the school ends up with another lawsuit pending. Something is certainly not right in a school where the students cannot discuss issues within the school without fearing litigation.

It is time that we saw what is really going on around us. As painful as it is for us to accept, the struggle for equality is not over. We are currently at a standstill, and the only way to move on is to do just that. We have to recognize that race relations are far from perfect in order to improve them at all. It is time for us to face the facts and try to change them. Otherwise, we may as well let years of progress go down the drain.

Five Years of Latin Seen as Too Much by Students

By Caroline Gaudet, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Look around Latin class. What do you see? Unless you happen to be one of those rare individuals in an AP or honors class, you can probably find a few people sleeping, a number of people doing homework for other classes, a couple of people reading a newspaper, and (ecce!) even a few people doing Latin. Now take a guess at how many students at the Boston Latin School actually would say that they are eager to take Latin.

When asked about the importance of Latin and what basic elements it is used to teach, Dr. Peter Cohee, the new head of the Classics Department, said that "A loss of language equals a loss of identity." He further explained that this is a loss with the past and with

our roots, and it applies to everyone in the world. Culturally, we are heavily influenced by the ancient people of long ago. Dr. Cohee believes that the Latin curriculum should include learning about everyday Roman life as well as focus on the grammar and vocabulary. Obviously changes need to be made in order for this to be done. What the teachers teach from year to year has to become more standardized, so that no matter which teacher a student gets one year, he or she will be prepared for the next.

Latin has traditionally been valued as a way to sharpen the mind and increase vocabulary. The reality of the situation is that many students graduate from this school not knowing how to form the present passive participle. What have students gotten out of these five years? Students have Latin teachers year after year who don't demand any extensive learning and practically give

out As. Suddenly in junior year, they are assigned to a teacher who actually expects some prior knowledge of the Latin language, and students are unable to earn anything higher than a C. That grade not only serves as a blow to the ever-ominous class rank, but also as a blow to self-confidence and to any remaining desire to learn.

In addition, Latin requirements reduce opportunities for taking other courses – those colleges require and those in which students are interested. With only six course slots, students must prioritize to fit all the basic courses in first, and then whatever class space they have left over can be used for a class specific to their interests. Take, for example, someone who decided to take physics for the sophomore and junior years, and was lucky enough to get into the one art class offered for juniors and seniors. Come senior year, this student will automati-

cally be taking English, US History, Art AP, and Calculus, as well. There are two slots left over. What courses should the student select? Facing History, which everyone who takes it raves about? Chemistry, an interest of the scientifically-gearred student? European History? Music Appreciation?

The Latin requirement cuts students' learning options. That is why Latin requirements should be reduced to three intense years (two for B-sies), after which Latin should remain an elective. Having to take Latin for a longer period of time does not necessarily equal more knowledge of Latin. If students are taught more rigorously for two or three years, students could end up having learned as much or more than they are learning now. In this way, those who want to expand their minds in other manners can do so.

Sound Advice for a Stress-Fress Senior Year

By Michael Brennan, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You're here. You can try to deny it, but sooner or later you'll have to 'fess up to the fact that you're a senior. Believe me, it's not all it's cracked up to be. When we were younger, we looked at the seniors and envied their position. They were the supreme rulers of the school. They didn't even give us lowly underclassman a second look, and we admired them for it. While we hurried to our next class, the seniors would lounge around in the hallways, seemingly without a care in the world. We were forever enchained in the halls of Latin. Even last year, after we graduated as juniors, we kept our dependent minds in denial. We still had one more summer free of the responsibility and anxiety of staring real life in the face. One more summer of being a kid.

However, now you really have no choice but to acknowledge the frightening, nerve wracking, and occasionally depressing facts. First, disrobe yourself of the denial that cloaks every square inch of your body. You must come to terms with the fact that this is senior year, and that college is just around the corner. Some of us have been able to do this already. These people are easy to spot as they have become nervous wrecks. They storm through the hallways with black bags under their eyes, disheveled hair, and massive book bag while leaving trails of chewed fingernails in their tracks. It's best to leave these disturbed individuals alone because once you initiate conversation, you've opened the floodgates. For hours on end, these bodies with only a semblance of the soul that used to occupy them, will unleash a barrage of whiny complaints about how much stress they're under and all the assignments they did

last night. Soon they will mention how Mr. X gave them an A- instead of an A and now their rank has dropped from 18 to 21. No matter how great the urge, do not strike these classmates. People with these social skills will wind up filthy rich, living in a Victorian mansion, and dying a lonely death with a goldfish named Bob as their only heir. Have pity on them, and take their example as a warning.

Sure, this is senior year, and it's a lot of work, but you don't need to go overboard. Although college is a big decision, if college is anywhere near the top on the grand scale that determine things in your life it's time to re-examine your corrupted priorities. If you do the work and remain as calm as possible, it shouldn't be that bad. If that doesn't sound good enough, then look at it this way: senior year is a lot like primitive surgery and you as the patient need to bite the bullet while the teachers mercilessly jab you with a scalpel. For the first two terms, take the pain and do the work, always keeping in mind that after January 1st you can crawl the rest of the way through the year. Senior slide is the anesthesia that will numb the pain from terms one and two. Not only will you stop doing school work, but the application process will be nothing but a buried traumatic memory that may or may not resurface in your mid- fifties.

That brings me to step number two for senior year survival. Apply to schools you know you would attend. For example, while leafing through a college guide, you might come upon UNC-Chapel Hill. Indisputably, this is a superb institution with excellent academics and top-notch quality of living. However, one thing you might not learn is that 80 percent of the kids at this school are state residents. You should keep in mind that schools differ greatly in person than on paper, so strongly consider paying schools a visit before

applying.

With these things in mind, you should have no trouble living to tell about your senior year. But if you do have any trouble, don't worry; it won't be the end of the world if you don't go to the college of your choice. Be grateful that you are going to college and make the best of your experience once you get there. And enjoy those home cooked meals while you can because next year at this time, you won't be eating a meal that mom made. Savor these last months at home before you're thrown out into reality and your childhood becomes something that's kept in a photo album.

Please Look Forward to a Full Review of Sabor Latino/ Ritmo Latino with photography in Our Next Issue!

MCAS: Beyond the Hype

By Rebecca Tumposky, II
FORUM EDITOR

Question #1: Which adjective or phrase most accurately describes the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests?
A. Discriminatory
B. Punitive
C. A waste of time
D. All of the above

I'd have to go with D, but then again, the question is kind of open-ended, and we were never really taught this material ...

There are numerous problems with the MCAS, but beyond its dreadful design and ludicrous questions lie critical social and educational issues. Two of the most pressing are the idea of ranking Massachusetts public schools by their scores and the proposed requirement of a passing score to graduate from high school.

Governor Celluci's decision to rank all public schools by their scores so that "parents will know what schools are achieving and what schools aren't" will have a very damaging effect. Students' test scores at a particular school do not give an accurate portrayal of the overall worth of the school. Other factors that should be considered include the dedication of the teaches, the happiness of the students, the values encouraged within the school, the extra-curricular activities and special programs available, the efforts to reach out to students with difficulties, and the community outreach of the school. In addition, since it has been proven that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds tend to do worse on the tests, schools serving low-income students are being punished because of the community they serve. The state ends up discouraging these hardworking schools when they should be encouraging them to continue to reach out to and believe in the children they teach.

Passing the MCAS will be a requirement for students graduating in 2003. Presently 32 percent of 10th graders have received failing scores in the English section, and 53 percent have failing scores in the mathematics section. In a recent study, the Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development at UMass Boston found that 49 percent of African-American students and 53 percent of Latino students failed English. Eighty percent of African-American students and 83 percent of Latino students failed math.

The failure rates are so high that Gaston Institute predicts that one out of every four African-American students will drop out of school under the current requirements. "This is devastating to the community," said Miren Uriarte, a researcher at the Gaston Institute. "It will have a very heavy economic impact in the future."

According to Derrick Jackson, "While African-Americans and Latinos are taking the hardest shots from the test, the Gaston Study showed that 13 percent of Asian and 10 percent of white may also give up and drop out."

The effects of making MCAS a graduation requirement will lead to more students not graduating. According to a newly proposed plan, some students may receive only one part of a dual diploma. Either way, the chances of these students getting jobs with which they will be able to support a family are slim. Without a high school diploma, students will suffer both socially and financially, not to mention the beating their self-esteems will take.

Using the MCAS as a way of ranking schools and as a graduation requirement offers no educational benefits, and negatively affects the public schools and their students, yet the political leaders of Massachusetts continue to support it. If Massachusetts continues to use standardized testing as a means of measuring the success of schools, education will only be reformed for the worse.



Amèlie Baker

By Rebecca Tumposky, II
FORUM EDITOR

"Let's say you have ten people in a room. Nine of them will die if they don't get a particular organ. There is one healthy guy who has all of the necessary organs working properly. Should you kill the healthy guy to save the nine people, or let the nine people die?"

Such questions are thoughtfully analyzed in the mind of Amèlie Baker, captain of the Boston Latin debate team. "Contrary to popular belief, the debate team is not a cult," Amèlie says one night over the phone. For Amèlie, it is an extremely rewarding activity that has taught her to think analytically, and to organize her thoughts in a more coherent way. Since debate requires one to argue for both sides, it has made her open her thought perspective. She wishes more people at Boston Latin would participate.

Debate takes over a large part of Amèlie life. Meetings are at least three times per week and occupy many weekends. Amèlie has debated all over Massachusetts, in New York, and even in Kentucky!

"Debate is an interesting activity because it uses people's intelligence in a different way than is demanded in school. It makes you question what you are learning and think critically, skills that are not usually developed in high school. Of course, it has also made me extremely opinionated!" she added.

Holiday Messages

To all my Lovers in show choir, swimming, and Lovers in g e n e r a l ;
HAPPYXMASANDMERRYNEWYEAR!UKNOWWHOUARE

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE IN A24 AND THE ANNEX TOO! FROM:MEGAN P.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL CLASS IV, ESPECIALLY TO MARCUS, ME, AND THE GIRL WE BOTH USED TO TEASE ABOUT.

Hey Elizabeth- HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!HOHOHO! DON'T BE LONELY! -ELIZABETH

MERRY X-MAS 2 ALL MY FRESHMAN CHICAS! 143 SKEEVY-AR-JM-NL-CS-KG-LOL RICKY & PETER NE IS #1 LUV NATASHA

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Bonnie, Anna, Natasha, Janna, Katie, Courtney, Becca! Love, Rebecca

Merry Christmas!! Mandy, Lindsey; Joe, Raymond(my brother) Love Kim

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL ESPECIALLY SHAN, KDOG, L.T.&C SMAX, FABRIZIO, MR.IDZIK, AND ALL OTHER PEEPS -EDDIE

TIFFANY- Merry Christmas Jack and Jill forever! Love, MG

HEYALICIA,MO,GOMER,MARY,SEAN,KRISTEN,NINA AND THE REST OF THE BEST FRIENDS...I have nothing to say.

Hi to Lisa,Bak,Sam,Shan,Ed,Ry,Ami,Kate,LizB,Katie(s),Nina, LisaD.,FrankieR;happyholidays,Love Jnei

:)XMAS2:Ree,Ting,Sauce,Neala,ESMAX&Shanny,Lev,drea,all the kevs,Mikes,&Tims,Pap,FMS,Jw&Div&C2000!~Lu

To The Mr.Click Fan Club: Senior Clicko says Feliz Navidad!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to MOM,ALEC,and all my friends.I love you guys!-LOVE FLORINA

Dear GANTMET, May your holidays be as happy as you have made mine. Merry Xmas!-KIENNA

Merry Christmas to Emily, Megan, Analisa, Elisabeth, Sara,Lauren,Kara,Mike,Caitlin.love,Michala & Steph

Special shout out to my girl, ANGIE! She's a bit out there but she's learning. Love, BOP.

Much Love and Respekt to the crew. YOU KNOW WHO U R.Stay Cool Angie P,Natacha P.&Shaquanna P.Luv Tiwi

Hey Kara H you will always be my little teletubby even if u do dress like Goldberg! Happy Holidays-CC

WURS UP! WOLFPAX! WEINERS! SHMOO! DONT Break a nail! HURRAY FOR THE FISH! HOTT GUYS IN THE NE!JENNA

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPENING NEW YEAR TO:TINGY,LULU,NATTY SAUCE, JANET, MO, NINA,JEN,LISAD, KIM, NEALA, Andrea, Gina, Eddie, Shannan, Ross, Divy, PAPPY, Kevo, KevM, Supafly, TimM, MikeB,TOMMY ,GOMER ,SEDA, JimmyD, ALEXI, SEAN,ROLO, RobM,AIEX, and Aaron. LOVE RY P.S.DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING.~Bono THANKSGUYS.

MERRY X-MAS TO MY DOT GIRLS.LOVE YA JKJ 200 0WILLY, H I F I, S I T , SOUP, MEMORIES, SCHOOL NIGHTS, BBC,MMMWWWAAAA

I WISH ALL THE STUDENTS AND THE TEACHERS TO HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Happy Holidays Class of 2000, Argonauts and Rolo, and all my love to my girls: Mary, Luce, Sass, Janet, Gina, Kim, Neals, Moll, Kat, Irene, Flo, Anya, Lizzie, Shadah, Jenn, Andrea, Naomi, and all the guys. And of course to Mom, Dad, Jackie, and Melissa. Thank you for everything Tim and Tom. Love, Tingy.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! TO:AD TALI ML RK SG NG MN JR JW TH CR JP DJ YF WB(myCL' ScbKMbfNRaaMSnpLD)AHnw LUVssBS

Happy Holidays to friends of Alex M, Mark D, Mike L, Max D, Liam M, Billy D, and Greg K and Sam A

MERRY X-MAS TO my DOT GIRLS.LOVE YA JKJ 200WILLY,HIFITS,SOU,memories,schoolNIGHTSBBC,mmmwwaaa

Merry Christmas.....Newman!

Sheriff Matt Gilloolly would like to wish you all peace, love, and good happiness stuff.HAPPY FESTIVUS

Yeah! To all the "I hope I graduate Ppl." Kara,KayShe,Ann,Kate,SwimTeamGIRLS&everyone Else - Raver Emma

Samantha Joseph

(continued from Page 6)

appreciate diversity as much as I do now. I truly believe that BLS' biggest strength is its diversity because it teaches you how to relate to cultures different from your own." Samantha plans to use her new office to give back to the school for teaching her this important lesson, an enduring lesson.

Samantha is no stranger to leadership, commitment, and hard work (well, of course not, she is a student at BLS!). Throughout her career here at BLS, she has been involved in various clubs and other activities. This year she not only chairs the class committee, but is also Yearbook Coordinator. This is a girl who knows how to manage her time and get things done, and she plans to use these skills in performing her duties.

Samantha considers being elected as Class Committee Chair one of the best things to happen to here as a student at BLS because it gives her the opportunity to use all the skills that she has. As Class Committee Chair, her main duty is to get the needs of the senior class voiced, and she makes sure that she gets her job done. She is does more than this, though. She is considered President Drudys Nichols' and Senior Class Advisor Mr. Keitt's right-hand woman. She is the one alerting each of the class committee members that they must be at the next meeting, making sure that the entire senior class is made aware of all the ideas and plans of the Senior Class Government.

Samantha, like her fellow officers has many plans for the upcoming year. These plans include ways to promote senior class unity, fundraise, and organize activities. This Class Committee Chair knows all about commitment and dedication. This girl is getting the job done.

Girls' Soccer Endures Double Standard

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

On October 27, the members of the Girls' Varsity Soccer team played their final home game. They decided to wear their purple soccer shorts and black soccer socks to school that day to pump themselves up and to let everyone else know who they were, that they were proud to be a member of this team, of this school.

On October 27, a majority of the girls were stopped by different members of Boston Latin School's staff and were told that their attire was "displeasing" to the school. The girls were stopped as they walked in the halls and were told that they were a big disappointment. They chose to walk through the halls drenched in school spirit and team commitment, yet they were branded a disappointment.

The girls were told that their manner of dress was deemed to be disruptive by several staff members, but not much of an explanation was given beyond that. These girls were stopped in front of groups of other students to be informed of this. No secret was made of how the staff felt. The girls were told to learn from the example of the boys' varsity soccer team, who had opted to dress up that day. The boys were congratulated on their "good taste." No one mentioned, or even seemed to recall, that the girls team had dressed up the prior Friday, for a different game. Not once on that date was a single member of the girls' team commended for their "good taste." A team with an exemplary record of sportsmanship was told to take an example from a team which had been involved in not only a bench-clearing fight mid-game, but also had several of its members receive yellow and red cards, which signify a foul during games. All because they wore shirts and not skirts.

Maybe the disappointment of the staff was justified. The girls were informed that it is reasonable for teams to wear their uniform shirts to school, but not their shorts. No explanation followed. So maybe the disappointment was in representatives of an athletic team breaking a rule. Why then, is it perfectly alright for other team representatives to wear the bottoms of their uniforms to school and not others? The Girls' Soccer Team is certainly not the only group of BLS athletes to wear their uniform bottoms to school.

Maybe the staff felt that wearing shorts in late October was disruptive. However, there were several students within the school that day wearing shorts, including some members of the Boys' Soccer team. Maybe it was the actual type of shorts that they were wearing, athletic shorts. But students wear this type of shorts to school all the time throughout the school year.

The members of the team set out that day to represent their school. They wanted to be excited. They wanted to remember that day. Instead, they were pointed out and were called disappointing, rude, and crass. One girl was asked what her mother thought of her outfit. She had on shorts and high socks. Her mother thought that she looked cute.

Maybe the staff thought that they were doing their job. They seemed to forget that this is our school. We are the students, and without us there would be no Boston Latin School. They ask us to show school spirit, to go to the games, to wear purple and white. But they give us no reason to want to. If we are yelled at for merely showing the school spirit they so desire, then why show it at all? These girls were not displeasing or a disappointment. They were just the opposite. They are what this school needs, people willing to look a little goofy to represent their school, and to try to have a little fun.

On October 27, the spirit of the girls varsity soccer team was dampened, the excitement lost. The members of the Girls' Varsity Soccer team decided to wear their purple shorts and black soccer socks. They decided to let the school know who they were.

Fix Summer Reading List Now!

By Chris Fong, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As soon as students come to Boston Latin, they are introduced to a tradition—"a rite of passage"—that anyone who wishes to enter its hallowed halls must go through: summer reading. It separates the determined from the weak, the workers from the slackers, and the members of the graduating class from the drop-outs. Each year, that dreaded list of summer reading books, believed to inspire, educate, and keep minds from turning into mush, is sent to students. Most of the books are unfamiliar. Each year until they are seniors, students receive a new and more difficult list. Despite all of the changes taking place in the school and its system, summer reading has remained constant.

After receiving the summer reading list from their English teachers, most students will leave it in their backpacks to become a forgotten time bomb. With the exception of the potential Ivy League scholars, who presumably do everything days ahead of time, most students will return to school having read only one or two of the assigned books. Some may not even have bothered going to the library to get the books. Slowly, the bomb starts to tick as students enjoy their summer. Students usually do not realize that they are in trouble until the summer is almost over. Others do not even think about the summer reading until teachers tell them the due date for the reports. This announcement is followed by the semi-traditional scramble to either go to the library to get the books, buy Cliff notes, or telephone friends in order to get a copy of their reports. To their chagrin, students sometimes find out that their friends have not done any of the reports, either.

What does this say about the willingness of students to read books with which they are not familiar? Obviously, the books fail to become one of the priorities on the summer schedule, probably ranking near the bottom of the list somewhere between summer school and allergies.

Here, the purpose of reading over the sum-

mer is debatable. If the students refuse to do any work until the last minute, then the benefits of summer reading are comparable to what students get out of studying for a midterm test the night before its administration. The idea of summer reading becomes completely ineffective and fails in its original goal to motivate students to learn.

However, when stuck between the choices of reading or failing their first term of English, some students will try to read at least one of the shorter novels on the reading list, hoping to discover well-formed plots and characters. No student has ever said that they truly enjoyed their selections when they could have been taking part in more enjoyable, youthful pursuits instead of reading. How can books compete against sports, computers, and hanging out with friends? If the administrative board which comes up with the list understood the students' perspective on reading, then there might be an improvement of the reading material. Summer reading could become more fun for students instead of being just a chore.

It seems very clear that until student suggestions are reviewed and taken into consideration, summer reading will never be a high priority in the academic lives of students. One change our school could implement is to include, as part of the book report form, a place for students to recommend or condemn each book and decide whether it should be included in future lists. Then students could send their reactions to the administration boards, where perspective on reading may slowly change. One parent has suggested, "Students should be allowed to pick several books of their own choice and several others from a constantly monitored list. This will allow the students to suffer less." An idea like this can help make students' lives a little less complicated.

When students leave school, they should feel that different kinds of literature can teach them something new and expand their minds. The current list that students receive consists only of titles of books and does nothing for them or their education. The entire goal of the summer reading program is to help the students. At this point, all it does is hinder them. Steps should be taken now to ensure a more student-oriented reading list that will allow everybody to profit.

Holiday Messages

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year to Caitlyn, Katie, Sam, and Dawn, Marcus, and everyone else! Meghan

Merry Christmas to my boys Jack Chung,, Carl Cruz, and Gamanuel Fleurmond!

Shout outs to all my peeps: Show Chior (fierce!), the Argonauts (esp. Copy Editprs), String Ensemble (yeah viola sect.!) the entire Register staff, KEKAK, the Italy/London travelers (zanni!) et al. Happy Holidays to everyone! Y2K, baby! <3 Kate C.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
JR,MODLMMM,SB,JVBJ,TK,SS,AD,GM,POB,DH,LS,FS,DNEB,JFKB,
AND ALL MY LITTLE HOCKEY BOYS LOVE
MEGHAN

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO KRISTIN, SHANA, LISA D
& EVERY ONE OF THE GIRLS. -TRAN P.S.
MARYELLEN TOO, BOTH

Hi Lily L.! Have a nice holiday vacation. We wish you the best of luck.! Love Jenny L. & Anita Y.

HEY EVERYBODY! HAVE A VERY NICE VACATION
THIS WINTER AND REMEMBER NOT TO MISS ME
(TOMMY) TOO MUCH !:)

Happy Holidays to
CD,SA,MM,CK,JH,JM,KS,KH,CM,HB,SF,BFJS,
JC,DZ,DH,,MH,TH,CG,SM,MM,AS-Elisabeth Joyce

Watch your back Sheriff. You never know when the Russo train is gonna come through your neighborhood.

happy chanukah! and merry x-mas to: neala, lu, molly, numerous kevs, mikes, tims, jo(h)ns, and lizs, ry, kim, sauce, div, joe,alexb, aaron, nick, ed, lisad,336, argonauts (yay layout!), cheerleaders - ss(BS), nr, mm, kr, dj, bonstance, buddy, lec, etc..., norb,gina, ting, art ap kids, beeb, gabby and their soph friends... class of 00 and to anyone else i forgot!!! im sorry!! love, andrea, drea, dre, bibby, whatever else you wanna call me!

THIS GOES OUT TO MY BAND,STAND CLEAR,AND
ALL MY FRIENDS(YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE).
ROCK ON YOU SWINDLER

HEY CHERZLE.JUST WISHING YOU HAPPY
HOLIDAYS,AND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO. I LOVE
YOU -STERVO STAY BLUE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CONGRATS, SHAN & ED
HAPPY BIRTHDAY BERACCE & SARAH HPPAY
NEW YEAR(BE SAFE) <3 LISA

TOOT. PLOP. HORN, PLOP, TOOT. PLOP, TOOT,
TOOT, PLOP, ME.

PAT MALOOF, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ALL YOUR
PICTURES DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

happy holidays to the class of 2000! drea, you better get me a good present! merry x-mas and everything else to: lu, stina, mary, lauren, nikki, rach, kat, lizzie, kevs, tims, jon, div, suzy, rossie, sauce, janet, kim, mollys, mikes, soccer girls, HR336, and andy! EVERYONE ELSE TOO! LOVE, NEALA

Buon Natale Miei Amici mia famiglia. PHAT Boy ToGep.
E mio amante. Amo tutti di voi. Con amore, Rachy

Merry Christmas Michelle!Don't worry,u'll b outta there soon!!I'm here 4 ya! LOVE DINA

Mrs. Middleton ("MO") wishes to really thank all the students who are so helpful daily to me w/ my bags and "Aunt Suzie." God Bless You All. Happy Holidays. Nez M.

ANOF FOREVER! THIS RING? IT TOOKS ME 4
MONTHS TO MAKE!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL,
MERRY 1ST XMAS KYLE!!

happy holidays to: rob,drea,mary,ting,jon,kevs,tim,sheriff, lizs,lisa,mikes,gina,neala,katie(sis),ross,mollys,kate,ed,shan,kyle,homeroom 303, and everyone else! love, tim mcd.

I WISH ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO
HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

Arts & Entertainment

The Arts at Boston Latin School

BLS Drama Club Update

By John Baker, I & Allison Jolly, II
A&E EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On behalf of The BLS Drama Club, we would like to welcome everyone back to another great season of drama! The 1998-1999 drama season was one of the most successful in years. The cast and crew of *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged)* dazzled everyone with a hilarious and record-breaking performance; the award winning *WASP* epitomized hard work and dedication; *The Crucible* served as an entrance and a stunning finale for some acting careers on the BLS stage. Our hope for this year is to match and exceed the triumphs of last season.

Over the summer, the Student Producers (John Baker, Allison Jolly, Jon Gass, and Kaitlyn Jolly) were informed that the Advising Director for the past two years, Ms. Keller, would not be returning. Instead, a new Theatre Arts teacher would be taking her place. Although saddened by the departure of a good friend and mentor, it was in the best interest of the BLS Drama Club to have an Advising Director within the BLS faculty. Ms. Sarah Teasdale is a young, levelheaded, intelligent director and playwright, who is willing to give an incredible amount of her time and effort for the continued success of the BLS Drama Club. The Drama Club is abundantly grateful for the amount of time she has already invested.

On account of all of the changes that have taken place, a fall play is not being produced. Instead, the four Student Producers and Ms. Teasdale have decided to hold fall workshops to accommodate the interests of the BLS community. Mondays are for Improvisation, Tuesdays and Thursdays are for the Actors' Workshops, and Wednesdays are for Playwriting. Under the direction of Ms. Teasdale, these workshops have been quite a success; with enough interest, it is possible that these workshops will continue.

Once again the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival is quickly approaching. Last year the cast and crew of *WASP* were thrilled to advance to the semi-final round of the festival, while capturing more than thirty awards. This year hopes are even greater. John Baker will be directing Elaine May's *Adaptation*, which will be presented as part of the 69th Annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival. Auditions were held in early December; however, if you are interested in participating in the production, please speak with one of the Student Producers or Ms. Teasdale in Room G1.

We strongly encourage anyone with even an iota of interest in becoming involved in The Boston Latin School Drama Club to take advantage of these various opportunities. Everyone, old and new, is welcome: no experience is necessary. Please, keep on the lookout for announcements in the bulletin and signs posted around the building advertising BLS Drama Club events. Be part of this year's triumphs.



The BLS Winter Concert

By Kathryn Cohen, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is that time of year again when the students file into school saddled up in puffy coats, exemplifying winter with their wind-tossed hair and rosy cheeks. Admiring all of this cold, it is inspiring to think of the upcoming winter concert, a few moments of entertainment bestowed upon the student body before venturing into the blissful depths of vacation. Every year the concert provides rich holiday fun, loaded with merry acts and exuberant performances. This year with the new music department director, Mr. Pitts, the winter concert is guaranteed to be a hit.

On December 23, students will have the opportunity to join their class in the BLS auditorium to enjoy the blissful sounds of the BLS music department; in addition, all are welcome and encouraged to attend the concert on December 22 at 7:00 PM in the BLS auditorium. The BLS Senior Concert Band, Show Choir, and Concert Choir are among the many scheduled performing groups.

The BLS Senior Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Pitts, will be performing selections that include excerpts from Holst's *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band*, Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, and Grundman's *Three Songs for Christmas*.

Concert Choir will be performing a traditional holiday blend of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, Wagner's *Tannhauser*, Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, and the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* at the winter assembly. Mrs. Wong-Ho anticipates a great performance by the Concert Choir, exclaiming that "the holidays are always a great season for music" because people are put into a good mood by the spirit which hangs in the air.

Finally Show Choir, directed by student Tim Grace, will be performing a number of selections, including traditional holiday music like *All Alone Beneath the Mistletoe* and *O Holy Night*. Show Choir also plans to perform their new number *Fame*, which is sure to get everyone on their toes.

The winter show is guaranteed to be a success. The talented students at Boston Latin School will unite and present their music to the rest of the student body as a cheerful introduction to the holiday and vacation.



The Show Choir Festival

By Jenny Schweon, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"It's not easy being cheesy!" That is the infamous motto of the Boston Latin School Show Choir, and at this year's Bay State Show Choir Festival, our "cheese" was well displayed.

BLS Show Choir, run by student Tim Grace and many hard working and dedicated seniors, is one of Boston Latin's few school based performance groups. It mixes both song and dance and includes all types of music, ranging from a cappella, to Disney, to popular songs. The group's diverse and talented members are always eager to jump on stage and perform. They meet once a week and practice for upcoming events, which include local functions like our annual concert at Children's Hospital. One of the most anticipated events each year is the annual Show Choir Festival, hosted by Oliver Ames High School in North Easton. On Friday, November 12, forty Boston Latin Show Choir members boarded the bus on their way to show their stuff.

When we, along with many other Show Choirs from high schools throughout Massachusetts arrived Friday afternoon, we immediately began rehearsing. The day was jam-packed with dancing, singing, and staging. Run by professional musicians and choreographers, it was an experience of a lifetime. Each school was divided into two groups, rotating from vocal training to dance rehearsals. Not only did we learn important musical skills, but we also made great friends along the way. During our few seconds of free time we managed to socialize, snack, and attract great attention while dancing in the school's hallways. By the end of the day we were more than exhausted. That evening we were sent home with host families and prayed for a good night's rest in preparation for another intense day. Saturday was filled with excitement. We added the final touches to the upcoming evening's performance and tried to calm the butterflies fluttering in our stomachs. One of the most engaging aspects of the show was the chance for each school to perform several of their own pieces. Boston Latin, always up to date, performed *For the Longest Time* and our new number *Fame*, which of course got everyone on their toes. Despite all of the hard work and sweat, it was worth the while. The show was amazing, and the memories even greater.

Show Choir allows aspiring students to let their hair down. Once on stage we forget our everyday stresses and enjoy the opportunity to express ourselves through song and dance. Although our outside interests do vary, each member has one thing in common, and that is the love of performance. Although the festival is over, it is not too late to catch a glimpse of what the Boston Latin Show Choir has to offer. We work hard, but most importantly, we love what we do!

An additional Boston Latin School 1999 Winter Concert will be held in the BLS Auditorium on Wednesday, December 22 at 7:00 PM. Class IV Choir, Class V Band, Class V Chorus, Class VI Chorus, Concert Choir, Gospel Choir, Junior Band, Senior Band, Show Choir, and String Ensemble will all be performing in the concert.

Unraveling *Mysteries of Egypt* at Science Museum

By Lauren Belmonte, VI, Jennifer Lawrence, VI & Christine Nasir, VI
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Who would have thought that an educational movie could be so much fun to watch? *Mysteries of Egypt*, the new Mugar Omni Theatre film at the Museum of Science, is both entertaining and enlightening. Part of a season long celebration of Egyptian culture in Boston, this film is an interesting, spectacular and breathtaking work of art.

Mysteries of Egypt begins with a reenactment of ancient Egyptians carrying the body of a son of Ra (most commonly known as Tutankhamen) to its final resting-place. The action then shifts to the present day. An old man, played by Omar Shariff, best known for his roles in *Dr. Zhivago* and *Lawrence of Arabia*, relates the story of King Tut's tomb to his granddaughter, who is played by Kate Mayberry, best known for her role in *The Secret Garden*. He tells his granddaughter that the location of Tut's tomb remained secret for over 3000 years, and that many people believe that a curse was buried along with Tut and his treasure.

The old man goes on to explain how one brave man, Howard Carter, ignored the supposed curse and made it his life's work to find King Tut's tomb. On his sixth attempt Carter struck gold. Actually, it was a waterboy at the camp who hit an oddly shaped rock while securing his jug of water who discovered the crypt. Carter, very excited, called Europe in order to bring his supporter and friend, Sir Carnavon, to his side. Together the two Egyptologists, followed by the Egyptian workers, reached the outer chamber of the tomb on November 26, 1922. Looking through a tiny hole in the chamber wall, Carter and Carnavon saw many hidden wonders.

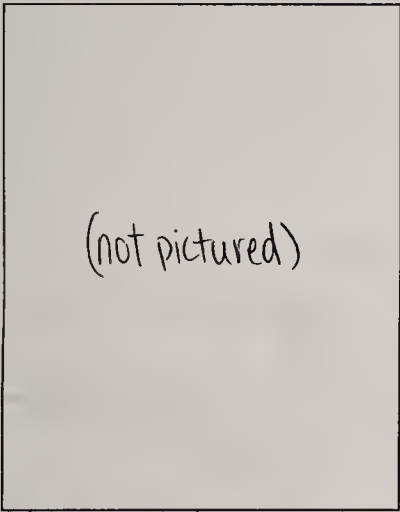
This is where the infamous curse comes into play. Five months later, Carnavon died of an infected mosquito bite. However, Carter lived until the age of 65, and the small boy who first discovered the tomb also lived to a ripe old age. So is there really a curse or not? The viewer is left to decide for his or herself.

The visual effects of *Mysteries of Egypt*, which was directed by Bruce Neibaur, are as engaging as the story itself. With the help of National Geographic, the filmmakers capture never-before-seen images of Egypt's pyramids and the treasures within their walls. There is a series of impressive shots, both distant and close-up, of many sections of the Nile River, including its numerous waterfalls. There are also wonderful shots of the Great Sphinx and the eighty remaining ancient pyramids. The film itself is made even better by the fact that the Mugar Omni Theatre is unlike any other theatre in Boston. Its giant surrounding screen is overwhelming, and the realistic sensation of the movie makes the viewer feel as if he or she is right in the film itself.

It is obvious by now that we all thoroughly enjoyed this enchanting film, and we certainly recommend it to any student at BLS. In fact, the only turnoff of *Mysteries of Egypt* is that it is so short, less than an hour total. Nevertheless, the relative brevity of the film allows the viewer more time to explore the Museum of Science itself. We suggest spending some time in the informative "Visual Egypt" exhibit, which serves as the perfect complement to the film *Mysteries of Egypt*.

If you are interested in seeing this film, which opened October 1, 1999 and is an ongoing presentation, you can call (617) 723-2500 or visit www.mos.org for tickets and show times. Reservations are sometimes required, especially during peak hours. If you plan to see this film, we strongly urge you to make reservations, especially if you want to go on a weekend.

"Coming Attractions" on the Latin Art Scene



Adam Finelli

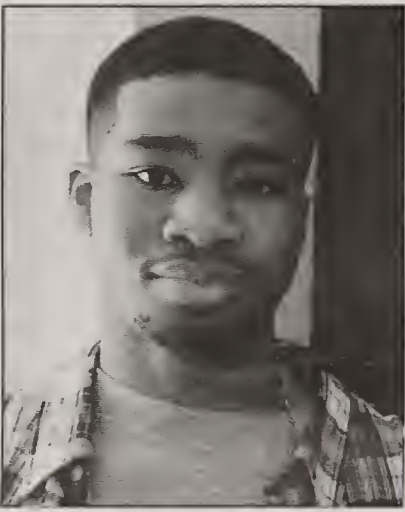
By Madeline Hale Sedovic, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of Latin School's most ambitious and talented thespians is sophomore Adam Finelli, who over the past few years has performed in *The Island of Anyplace* at The Pierce School and *WASP* at BLS. Currently, Adam is working on Woody Allen's play, *Death Knocks*, as part of the BLS Drama Club's Fall Workshops. His accomplishments do not stop there. Last year he helped with the lighting in *The Crucible* and is now busy as the co-president of the BLS Motion Picture Group. Outside of school, Adam also works in the Mirror Project, an organization that encourages children to make documentaries about their neighborhoods.

In the future, Adam hopes to be a filmmaker and director. He also plans to make a documentary about our own Boston Latin. For the moment, though, he is busy focusing on what he will achieve before he graduates in two years. Adam plans to do more stage managing, as well as directing, and has also said that he wants to incorporate more art classes for students using the new media arts center. And, as you may know, Adam and his friends won second place in the Halloween contest for their creative costumes inspired by the movie *The Blair Witch Project*. He hopes to edit and publicly present *The Latin Witch Project*, the film that they taped that day. With this much determination and creativity, Adam is sure to be a future success.

Olu Osinubi

By Katarina Yee, III
STAFF WRITER



With distinguishable green shoes and a trumpet in hand, Olu Osinubi is easy to spot. A sophomore at Boston Latin School, Olu Osinubi plays the trumpet for the BLS Senior Concert Band and Jazz Band. Last year, he was the Boston representative to the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble. He started playing the clarinet at the William Monroe Charter School in fifth grade, but chose to switch to the trumpet. "Everybody was playing the clarinet ... there were only two trumpets in the whole school, and I was one of them."

Olu tries to practice for an hour each day, but because of his "heavy course load" he usually gets in between thirty to forty-five minutes daily. He enjoys playing because of the competitiveness among trumpet players. "There are a lot of good trumpet players. To pick up the trumpet, you have to be determined to play well. It makes you strive to do better."

The advice Olu has for younger Boston Latin performers is to never give up. "You might sound bad now, but if you put in twenty minutes a day, you could sound pretty good. Also, try to hang around people who are better than you, because they'll make you better."

"Olu is an incredible trumpet player," says fellow band member John Baker. He's the up-and-coming artist who wears the big green shoes.

Does someone in your grade deserve a "Coming Attraction?"
Let us know! Contact Arts and Entertainment Editors Gina Cappellano in HR 337 or John Baker in HR 336.

Kaitlyn Jolly and Allison Jolly

By Jon Gass Jr., II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Allison and Kaitlyn Jolly are two up and coming artists in their penultimate year here at BLS. These talented twins have an impressive resume including achievements both inside and outside of the Latin School.

Kaitlyn started her extensive Latin School drama career with her role as Clea in the 1998 winter production of *Black Comedy*. After working in tech for numerous productions Kaitlyn went on to stage-manage last year's spring production of *The Crucible* with great success. As a junior, Kaitlyn takes AP Art, a very competitive program. Kaitlyn has also attended The Community Music Center for five years. She enjoys the arts at Latin but says, "they are not stressed as much as they should be. There is no focus, which



hopefully will be brought in with the new building."

Allison Jolly, a product of both the Community Music Center and Latin School's art programs, enjoys drama and music very much. An assistant stage-manager for last year's award winning show, *WASP*, Allison went on to act in *The Crucible*. She plays the clarinet in the BLS Senior Concert Band and is also quite a talented saxophonist. When asked how she feels about the issue of the arts at our school she said, "As far as music goes, what we have is a good jumping-off point, but you have to be self-motivated. The teachers do well with what they have, but we need more." She appreciates "Mr. Pitt's struggle to fill in the gap."

Both Kaitlyn and Allison fell that organized programs in the arts allow children to explore a part of themselves that would otherwise be overlooked. The Jolly twins are two up and coming artists who will surely succeed in whatever direction life takes them.

Arts Spotlight



Vinh Thouy Troung

By Anya Drabkin, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're wondering why she always disappears after school, it's because she's volunteering at the Northeastern photography lab; or if you see her on the red-line going to Harvard Square, she's probably five minutes late for chamber ensemble or her private piano instruction. On the weekends, you're lucky if you see her on the train, or crossing the street quickly, headed for art classes at the Art Institute of Boston.

Besides balancing three AP and one honors classes this year, Vinh Thuy Truong has made art, in several mediums, an integral and consuming part of her life. She has been

Vinh has made art, in several mediums, an integral and consuming part of her life.

playing piano for almost eleven years. Although her private instruction and various ensembles at the prestigious Longy School of Music have molded her into the classical pianist she first and foremost claims to be, Vinh also has shown a considerable ability to adapt to different styles of music. Her music theory, eartraining, and private piano lessons at the Berklee College of Music, renowned primarily for its emphasis on Jazz and Blues, as well as her participation in Show Choir for the past five years, demonstrate Vinh's inherent ability and desire to branch out into other styles of music and performance.

Vinh has also developed a deep love and great talent in the visual arts from a very young age. Scholarship art classes at the Museum of Fine Arts in ninth and tenth grade heralded her acceptance into the Young Artist's Program last summer. Through the program, she has received full scholarships to several classes ranging from Graphic Design to Documentary Photography, for which she has been awarded a stipend and eight college credits.

Vinh has demonstrated a dedication to the liberal arts through her work as a mentor at the UMass Writer's Workshop, as a volunteer art teacher in the Double Take program, and an editor for the BLS Yearbook.

Vinh is a remarkable artist, performer, writer, musician, and above all, a wonderful friend. Her artistic ability, complemented by her wit, humor, and her ever-ready smile, has enriched and enhanced the lives of all who know her. She is Vinh: listen, look, watch. She has much to say.

Book Reviews

'Tis

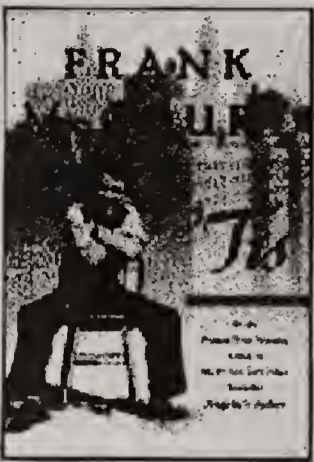
Frank McCourt

By Meghann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

As a follow up to *Angela's Ashes*, the respected Irish author Frank McCourt writes a second memoir, *'Tis*, recalling his experiences in New York City as a struggling New York University student and teacher in New York. Young Frank McCourt returns to New York after a life of poverty in Limerick, Ireland; he finds work on the New York docks and

attends New York University, where he studies to become a writer. Frank meets the girl of his dreams, Alberta; however, the two have a rocky relationship because they come from different cultures. Meanwhile, McCourt teaches at a rough New York vocational school, where he finds teaching difficult. At last McCourt finds a position at Stuyvesant High School, which, according to McCourt, is quite similar to Boston Latin School, except the students are not required to learn Latin or Greek. Throughout the memoir, Frank McCourt searches for his place in American society, while he examines

his identity and struggles with his Irish-American culture. Frank McCourt's second memoir, *'Tis*, is a warm and beautiful work of literature that is guaranteed to be just as successful as McCourt's first memoir, *Angela's Ashes*.



A Monk Swimming

Malachy McCourt

By Meghann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

What do young immigrants do when they arrived in America? Some work, some marry, some start a business, some live the high life. As a young Irish immigrant Malachy McCourt did all of the above. His now famous brother, Frank McCourt, the author of

Angela's Ashes, pays Malachy's way to New York City from County Limerick, Ireland. In the memoir, McCourt reminisces about his life of poverty in Ireland, his golden youth, his refusal to become a responsible adult and gives humorous insight into what it is like to be Irish. Among his many accomplishments, Malachy joins an off-Broadway acting troupe, opens a bar, and becomes a gold smuggler. One of McCourt's fondest memories is being a member of an amateur rugby team that played against Harvard. On Harvard's team was "one Boston boy named Kennedy, known to we lads as Ted." McCourt drops a few other names, having chance encounters with Prince Philip, actor Richard Harris, and Warren Beatty. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to pick up a copy of Malachy McCourt's memoir *A Monk Swimming*. This is a memoir that will touch your heart and bring a smile to your face.

The Things They Carried

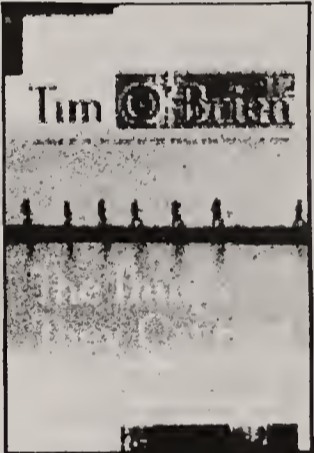
Tim O'Brien

By Jeanette Sayers, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Things They Carried, by Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien, is a collection of fictional short stories that describe the nightmarish conditions of the Vietnamese jungles as seen through the eyes of an American soldier. The stories, although fictitious, are semi-autobiographical because the emotional strain depicted in the novel is actually

similar to that experienced by the author during the Vietnam War. In the novel, heaps of equipment that soldiers were forced to carry through the jungle are contrasted with the emotional baggage that the horrors of Vietnam inflicted upon all involved, which provides a chilling overall account of the Vietnam War. The novel deals with the immediate repercussions of the traumatic experiences of the soldiers during the war, such as witnessing the death of a friend or leaving behind a loved one. The novel also explores the long-term emotional and physical effects suffered by the soldiers upon their return to the United States and throughout the rest of their lives. In addition to the explicit descriptions of trauma, there are also humorous anecdotes to show how soldiers were able to

cope under the stressful conditions of the jungle. Honor our war veterans. Read this book and discover the horrors that soldiers experienced to defend the United States. Learn how the author, one particular Vietnam veteran, kept his humor and survived in Vietnam and how he copes with memories of the conflict today.



Sophie's World

Jostein Gaarder

By Kathryn Cohen, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sophie's World begins slowly, gradually developing into a novel rich with suspense, adventure, and mystery. It recounts the unique story of a young girl named Sophie whose life is turned upside-down when she receives a secret letter from a stranger, marking her first philosophy lesson. The letters continue, each one growing more mysterious, while broadening the reader's spectrum of knowledge on philosophy.

Sophie travels backward in time, encountering famous philosophers such as Socrates and Plato. She explores all the major time periods of early Modern European history including the Renaissance, Baroque, and the Enlightened Age. The real mystery involved heightens the interest in the book. The culminating mystery is the ultimate philosophy lesson that opens up the reader to question all aspects of reality.

The book encompasses magic and fantasy and wraps it up in a simple philosophy lesson. Its childlike narrative gives an easy and realistic perspective on the world. Although the story is told through the eyes of a young girl, its concluding message reveals the inherent complexity of the plot and philosophy itself. The story is an ingenious mystery told in an original manner. Jostein Gaarder uses an unprecedented format to make *Sophie's World* the perfect tool for learning philosophy.

Did You Know?

Talented senior Hajarrah Abdussabur's artwork is on display at the Wang Center. Support BLS Artists by visiting her show and look for Hajarrah in next issue's Arts Spotlight!

More Holiday Messages

Happy Winter Vacation! I HOPE IT SNOWS!

I once had a furry kittie.I wanted to make it pink so I covered it in dye. It scratched me. 2000! Emma

Merry Christmas to the members of the WiffleBall Club and the Pro-Life Club. O'Malley RULES!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE Bahama Mamas-Al,Chris,&Mon Love,Mozz

Holidays: Christina Monica Christine Nicole Katie Kerry Janine Kathleen Lucie + Lisa

There is no Santa Claus: Rudolf is being displayed in the Bronx, & ELVES ARE EVIL Purin-aka-JigglyPuff

I LOVE YOU GUYS:Brig, Natasha, Heather, Katie,Fleming,Mikesl+3,Rebecca,Karina,Anna,Bonnie,Sam,Luv,Jenna

To my sexy boys on the Varsity Soccer Team, especially Aaron, James, Huy, Kevin, Alex, Nick, and of course, the Heart and Soul of the Team...Dubro! No, I'm not going to be frumpy. To ANOF and everyone else: I love you guys!! Happy Holidays. Love, Kristin

My little Natasha, LOL! So...ROAR! Nice and creamy! Shamu! Pop ure face WE BEST FRIENDS! LUV u, JENNA

BOUNA FORTUNA ALLA CLASSE DI DUEMILLE! Always remember, you are your greatest obstacle. PJL

HAPPY CHANNUKAH To My SuPeR jEwS—>Kathryn Molly and Irene! We will go skiing! PROMISE!!! James, you got your pic in the Argo...happy yet? J. You're Tweedle Dum. Punchy buggy no punch backs!! NO MORE BREAKDOWNS!!!!BHS anyone?

Hello!! Happy Holidays to Kristin, Nina, Elizabeth, Molly (yeah ANOF) Dave-(“You’re such a Fat Head!”), Mike, Eddie(Fabrizio!) and Shannan and Kyle, Aaron, Mary, James, Sean, Alexi (Disco Bowling!!!), Italian 5, and the Senior class of, what?...2000!!!! Love, Lisa DB!

The Christmas Cow has a special Holiday greeting just for you: “Moo” This has been, The Christmas Cow

Merry X-mas 2 Ying, Kitty, Daisy, Jenny RtChan, Kimg, and 2 all my buds at BLS. Special X-mas 2

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year to Caitlyn, Katie, Sam, and Dawn, Marcus, and everyone else! Meghan

Merry Christmas to my boys Jack Chung, Carl Cruz, and Gamanuel Fleurmond!

Shout outs to all my peeps: Show Chior (fierce!), the Argonauts (esp. Copy Editprs), String Ensemble (yeah viola sect.!) the entire Register Staff, KEKAK, the Italy/London travelers (zanni!) et al. Happy Holidays to everyone! Y2K, baby! <3 Kate C.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
RMODLMMMSBVBTKSSADGMPDBHLSFSDNEBFBK
AND ALL MY LITTLE HOCKEY BOYS LOVE
MEGHAN

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO KRISTIN, SHANA, LISA D & EVERY ONE OF THE GIRLS. -TRAN P.S. MARYELLEN TOO, BOTH

Hi Lily L.! Have a nice holiday vacation. We wish you the best of luck.! Love Jenny L. & Anita Y.

HEY EVERYBODY! HAVE A VERY NICE VACATION THIS WINTER AND REMEMBER NOT TO MISS ME (TOMMY) TOO MUCH !:)

Happy Holidays to
CEAMCKHMSHMBBNDHMHICMMAS
Elisabeth Joyce

Watch your back Sheriff. You never know when the Russo train is gonna come through your neighborhood.

Merry Xmas Every1! ESP. EASTIE!Same 2 all my friends from school,u no who u r! LOVE ALWAYS!-DINA

Buon Natale Miei Amici mia famiglia. PHAT boy to Gep. E mio amante. Amo tutti di voi. Con amore, Rachy

We’ve Made It, Guys! Class of 2000 Merry Christmas to Nicole Alex Monica & Christine ~Good Luck

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO THE CARIBBEAN CLUB, DEBAJAN CREW, AND MY CARIBBEAN POSSE! -TRINI GYAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MISS BRUN FROM ALL THE KIDS IN H.R. 202 !!!!! DREW HAS TUFF GEAR!

To the BLS Community: SeasonsGreetings From Students & staff of the Saturday Success School.

happy holidays-sandy becky sheila julie jose jamesh jamesz vivian lily kim mabel jenny sze man jimmy vallery helen jerell yiing chau wai & everyone else. I luv u guys!!! -Jenny

HAPPY FESTIVUS TO THE COSTANZA FAMILY

Merry Christmas to Mr. O'Malley, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Tarpey, and the other great teachers

FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US! BAGELS NO, FESTIVUS YES!

Let it snow! Little flakes hit your face and winter is here. I love to ski! Go have sone snowy fun!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL THE CHEERLEADERS!! I LOVE YOU GUYS!! -LAURA

Y o T o A L L m y
peepsin2000EmmaKaraKatieAnnZoeKaren(myBFF4alwayz)
LisaD.B.NandaSarahK.andto all4eva-Mike D.

Heytoyoubabz!youaresotoillmyBFF4eva!
We'vegotthisspecial FRIENDship!I'llmiss
ya!urintheARGOgeeKME

ToallthelItaly kidzandItalian5,MERRYXMAS
ANDALLTHATJAZZ.TOALLY'ALLATTHETREE-
LIZ CHRISSY,ETCLUVYA-Mike

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
TP,LH,AH,CB,AC,AD,MM,MD,EB,AND ANYONE
LEFT OUT! LOVE LAURA

All my love to Kristin, Lisa, Molly, Cortney,Adrienne and Elizabeth. ANOF forever! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody-EB, KB,LB,GC,KC,LD,JD,MM,Fathead DE,Best Friend TG,AM,RM,JO,RO,SQ,SM,and ET.I cherish you all. Love and kisses, Nina

happy chanukah! and merry x-mas to: neala, lu, molly, numerous kevs, mikes, tims, jo(h)ns, and lizs, ry, kim, sauce, div, joe, aaron, nick, lisa, ed, 336, argonauts, cheerleaders - ss, nr, mm, kr, dj, bonstance, buddy, ah, etc..., art ap kids, beeb, gabby and their soph friends... and to anyone else i forgot!!! love, andrea!

THIS GOES OUT TO MY BAND,STAND CLEAR,AND ALL MY FRIENDS(YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE). ROCK ON YOU SWINDLER

HEY CHERZLE.JUST WISHING YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS,AND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO. I LOVE YOU -STERVO STAY BLUE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CONGRATS, SHAN & ED HAPPY BIRTHDAY BERACCE & SARAH HPPAY NEW YEAR(BE SAFE) <3 LISA

TOOT. PLOP. HORN, PLOP, TOOT. PLOP, TOOT, TOOT, PLOP, ME.

PAT MALOOF, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ALL YOUR PICTURES DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

happy holidays to the class of 2000! drea, you better get me a good present! merry x-mas and everything else to: lu, stina, mary, lauren, nikki, rach, kat, lizzie, kevs, tims, jon, div, suzy, rossie, sauce, janet, kim, mollys, mikes, soccer girls, HR336, and andy! EVERYONE ELSE TOO! LOVE, NEALA

Merry Christmas Michelle!Don't worry,u'll b outta there soon!I'm here 4 ya! LOVE DINA

Arts Spotlight



Timothy Grace

By David Esposito, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Huddled in the cold, with his coat buttoned clear to his eyes, he stands there shivering. He does it every day, hands desperately clutching a Dunkin’ Donuts cup, sipping slowly his beloved coffee. Every winter, the boy is out there doing this. He likes to enjoy his time before school as much as anybody else. But on those three-and-a-half-degree days, we all start to question the boy’s sanity.

You know by now that I’m talking about my boy Tim Grace, or else you haven’t been out back in the last four years and seen this fool shivering all by himself. As devoted as he is to his precious “butts” and coffee, it is nowhere remotely close to his love and appreciation for music. Since he was seven years old, studying with Mr. Alan Long, a man who would eventually advocate that Tim take his training to a higher level, Tim has shown more devotion for his piano and musical theory than for just about everything. It was during his time with Alan that Tim was pushed not just to learn music, but to appreciate it, and to recognize himself as an instrument for his craft. In the meantime, he has progressed significantly. The boy never ceases to amaze or delight me when he sits down to break off a slow little jazz riff or some brash, poppin’ big-band number. If you’ve ever cruised down Prospect Street on some idle Thursday night, you’ll hear the piano all the way up and down the street, trying to keep up with the man that makes it sing.

Tim has been studying music composition and theory for the last three years at Berklee College of Music. He has been selected twice for their System 5-week summer scholarship, an award also granted to fellow students Mike MacAllister, Karsten Krumbiegel, and Kara McElhinney. Studying under the tutelage of Joe Mulholland and Dave Limina, Tim has progressed into a fluid phantom of the ivory keys. In fact, he has gotten so good that, on days when we run out of money, he will duck into the occasional hotel lobby and start to play for cash. No permission, no introduction, just Tim. Needless to say, he has gotten many of his friends kindly shown the door in every hotel in the greater Boston area. And don’t think all the construction at the Weston hasn’t handcuffed this poor kid: it used to be his favorite venue.

At school Tim has headlined the band for International Showcase the last two years and is looking forward to doing it again this spring. After three years in Show Choir, he was voted their president for his senior year. Tim loves the experience, saying, “To stand in front of that crowd and have them realize their musical talent, and have it all come at your face, is the most electrifying feeling.”

For a while last year, Tim was dividing his time between Berklee with teaching elementary students at Most Precious Blood in Hyde Park. While many of us laughed him off as a baby-sitting substitute, Tim did admirably well. When the mother of one of his students fell ill, Tim continued to teach her for free. Riverside Theatre Works in Hyde Park has also tapped him for a few shows and, when his grandfather passed away last year, he wrote a song for his funeral. To know Tim and to see all that he can do is truly a testament to his love of music and devotion to experimentation. Tim and I have been really good friends for five years and I’d say that I know him as well as anybody. Believe me when I tell you that he is more dedicated to perfecting his craft than Michaelangelo was to sculpting marble. He is a true artist and deserves the superlative “Most Artistic” that the senior class gave him in every way. Of the award, Tim says, “It’s truly an honor to be recognized, not just as an artist, but as a creative and musical force by the people of my class. Especially after working for ten years, I can’t say how much it really means to me.” So cruise down to Prospect Street on some idle Thursday and you’ll hear what I’m talking about. Or you can wait for the concert tours because it’s no doubt that they’re only a matter of time. As Tim puts it, “To be sixty-five and wake up and practice and know that I sound better than I did the day before is my ultimate dream.” Tell you the truth, Tim, it sounds damn good the way it is now.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Arts & Entertainment Calendar Compiled By John Baker and Gina Cappellano

Winter Recess Events

Wednesday, December 22, 1999 — Saturday, January 1, 2000

22 Wednesday Boston Latin School's Holiday Concert @ 7PM Boston Ballet's The Nutteraker @ Wang Theatre through 1/2, call 1-800-447-7400 A Child's Christmas in Whales @ Lyric West Theatre Co., call (617) 288-7889 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 9PM A Christmas Carol @ North Shore Music Theatre, call (978) 232-7200	22 (continued) The Christmas Revels @ Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall through 12/26, call (617) 496-2222 The Rainmaker @ Merrimack Rep. through 12/26, call (978) 454-3926 Footloose @ The Colonial Theatre through 1/2, call (617) 931-2781 Pharaohs of the Sun @ MFA through 2/6 Akhnaten @ Lyric Opera through 2/6, call (617) 542- 4921	22 (continued) Strings, Things, and Pictures @ Boston Center for the Arts in the Mills Gallery through 1/16, call (617) 426-8835 Sites Unseen: Shimon Attie, Photographs and Public Projects 1992-1998 @ Institute of Contemporary Art through 1/16, call (617) 266-5152 Makoto Saito: The Art of the Poster @ Mass College of Art through 12/23 Ivanov @ A.R.T through 1/22, call (617) 547-8300	22 (continued) Boston Architecture Col- lages by Theresa Dietrich @ Dean's Gallery @ MIT through 1/22, call (617) 253-9455 She Loves Me @ Lyric Stage Co. of Boston, through 2/2, call (617) 437-7172 The Idiots Karamazov @ A.R.T. through 1/16. Angela's Ashes, Snow Falling on Cedars, Man on the Moon & Any Given Sunday open @ movie theatres today Fannell Hall Market Place Holiday Classics @ 7PM	23 Thursday Boston Latin School's Winter Assembly A Christmas Carol @ North Shore Music Theatre, call (978) 232-7200 A Child's Christmas in Whales @ Lyric West Theatre Co., call (617) 288-7889 The Christmas Revels @ Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, through 12/26, call (617) 496-2222 The Ninth Gate opens @ movie theatres today Fannell Hall Market Place Holiday Classics @ 1:30PM & 3:30PM Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 10PM	24 Friday A Child's Christmas in Whales @ Lyric West Theatre Co., call (617) 288-7889 The Christmas Revels @ Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, through 12/26, call (617) 496-2222 The Ninth Gate opens @ movie theatres today Fannell Hall Market Place Holiday Classics @ 1:30PM & 3:30PM Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 10PM	25 Saturday The Christmas Revels @ Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, through 12/26, call (617) 496-2222 Cradle will Rock, Galaxy Quest, The Cider House Rules, Mansfield Park, The Talented Mr. Ripley, Play it to the Bone & Titus open @ movie theatres today Fannell Hall Market Place Holiday Classics @ 1:30PM & 3:30PM Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 1 - 6PM
26 Sunday The King and I @ Turtle Lane Playhouse through 12/30, call (617) 244 -0169 The Christmas Revels @ Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall through 12/26, call (617) 496-2222 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 9PM	27 Monday The Little Prince @ Boston Children's Theatre through 12/30, call (617) 424-6634 The King and I @ Turtle Lane Playhouse through 12/30, call (617) 244 -0169 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 9PM	28 Tuesday Footloose the Musical @ Colonial Theatre through 1/2, call (617) 931-2787 The Little Prince @ Boston Children's Theatre through 12/30, call (617) 424-6634 The King and I @ Turtle Lane Playhouse through 12/30, call (617) 244 -0169 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 9PM	29 Wednesday The Jew and the Lotus presented by the Boston Film Artists @ MFA's Remis Auditorium @ 4PM, call (617) 542-4MFA The Little Prince @ Boston Children's Theatre through 12/30, call (617) 424-6634 The King and I @ Turtle Lane Playhouse through 12/30, call (617) 244 -0169 The Third Miracle & Hurricane open @ movie theatres today Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 9PM	30 Thursday John Payne Quartet and Sax Choir @ The Charles Hotel in Cambridge, call (617) 876-7777 An Unusually Bad Lot by Shimon Attie @ Institute of Contemporary Art 5PM - 10PM The Little Prince @ Boston Children's Theatre through 12/30, call (617) 424-6634 The King and I @ Turtle Lane Playhouse through 12/30, call (617) 244 -0169 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 10PM	31 Friday An Unusually Bad Lot by Shimon Attie @ Institute of Contemporary Art 5PM - 11PM Boston Community Choir performs @ The State House @ 4PM & 7:30PM Fireworks @ Boston Com- mon @ 7PM Sisters Matsumoto @ Hunting Theatre Co. through 1/30, call (617) 266-0800 Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 10AM - 10PM	1 Saturday An Unusually Bad Lot by Shimon Attie @ Institute of Contemporary Art 5PM - 11PM Boston Community Choir performs with The Boston Pops @ Castle Park in park Plaze @ 5PM, 6PM, & 7:15PM Ice Skating at Frog Pond on Boston Common 12PM - 8PM

Upcoming and Ongoing Events	Et Ceteras	
Akhnaten @ Boston Lyric Opera through 2/6	American Reperatory Theatre (A.R.T.)	(617) 547-8300
Blue Man Group Ongoing @ The Charles Playhouse (blueman.com)	Bank Boston Celebrity Series	(617) 482-6661
Emerson String Quartet @ New England Conservatory 1/8 @ 8PM*	Boston Ballet	(617) 695-6955
Footloose the Musical @ The Colonial Theatre 12/28 - 1/2	Boston Lyric Opera	(617) 542-4912
Full Circle @ American Reperatory Theatre 2/11 - 3/19	Boston Public Library, Copley Square	(617) 536-5400
Green Eggs and Ham @ New England Conservatory 1/29 @ 2PM*	Boston Symphony Orchestra (B.S.O)	(617) 266-1200
The Idiots Karamazov @ American Reperatory Theatre through 1/16	Braintree General Cinema	(781) 848-1070
Ivanov @ American Reperatory Theatre through 1/22	Charles Playhouse	(617) 931-2787
Joseph & the Amazing Tech. Dreamcoat @ The Colonial Theatre 1/4-1/16	Cheri (Sony) Cinema	(617) 536-2870
Loot @ American Reperatory Theatre 1/28 - 3/15	Cleveland Circle Cinema	(617) 566-4040
Luciano Pavarotti @ Symphony Hall 1/26 @ 8PM*	Colonial Theatre	(617) 931-2787
MA High School Drama Guild Festival 3/4 @ Participating High Schools	Copley Pl. (Sony) Cinema	(617) 266-1300
Mary Stuart @ Huntington Theatre Co. 3/10 - 4/9	Dedham Showcase Cinema	(781) 326-4955
Pharaohs of the Sun @ The Museum of Fine Arts through 2/6	Emerson Majestic Theatre	(617) 824-8000
Shear Madness Ongoing @ The Charles Playhouse Stage II	Greater Boston Arts (P.B.S.)	www.pbs.org
Sisters Matsumoto @ Huntington Theatre Co. 12/31 - 1/30	Huntington Theatre Company	(617) 266-0800
Sites Unseen @ Institute of Contemporary Art through 1/16	Institute of Contemporary Art	(617) 266-5152
Stamp Art and Artists' Stamps @ Lesley College through 1/19	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	(617) 566-1401
Sunset Boulevard @ Wang Theatre through 1/16	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (M.F.A.)	(617) 542-4MF
Yo-Yo Ma @ Symphony Hall 1/21 @ 8PM*	Museum of Science	(617) 723-2500 -
	Randolph Showcase Cinema	(781) 963-5600
	Telecharge	1-800-447-7400
	Ticketmaster	(617) 931-2787
* Part of the Bank Boston Celebrity Series, call (617) 482-6661		

Sports

Latin Endures Weather, Overcomes English

(Continued from page 1)

kilt-bearing triumphant run on the Latin sideline in the mold of the great William Wallace of Scotland. English finished up the first half scoring with a 9-yard Mustapha Alabi touchdown run. Alabi shined for the Blue and Blue all day, especially on that drive with his touchdown and a 38-yard reception on that drive. An English drive stalled on the Latin 9-yard line at the end of the half, so at half-time the Wolfpack held a solid 22-13 lead.

The Wolfpack ran away with it in the second half. As a tremendous downpour fell over the field, Owolewa again led the offensive charge with three rushing touchdowns in the half. When the dust had settled after his relentless rushing attacks, the Wolfpack had the game in hand with a 42-13 lead. The Wolfpack defense stepped up big in the second



(Clockwise from upper left) Junior Kevaghn Arthur pulls in a pass.; Coach Costello and quarterback Phil Tracey survey the field.; The special teams unit bears down.; Captain Harris congratulates Owolewa.

half, holding the Blue and Blue to only a meaningless touchdown near the end of the game. Senior Captain Dennis Har-

ris and team sack leader senior John O'Donnell anchored a defensive line that was able to thwart an English running

game that had started off the game so well. Once again, the Wolfpack football team made the school feel so proud. The seniors all went out in great style as champions. Our hated rival English was once again sent back with its tail between its legs. Despite the unbelievable rain and huge puddles, the faithful came out again to cheer on their team. The alumni returned, many of last year's players were spotted, and there were even those loyal students who painted "WOLFPACK" across their chests. This year's Boston Latin School football team performed valiantly in the Dual County League and in this very special Thanksgiving game. The school was represented very well, and this team went out in grand style with the cheers of the Wolfpack fans and alumni behind them as they triumphantly walked to the locker room together for the last time as a team.

Superfan Speaks His Mind...

By Michael Donahue, I
STAFF WRITER

The Wolfpack's glorious march to the superbowl and an undefeated season was once again undermined by league powerhouse Acton-Boxboro. In fact, the Pack never quite recovered from that game and came out flat every week losing four straight(maybe the band is a jinx). Nevertheless, we have arrived at the last game of the millennium, and unless hell freezes over we should beat English by a lot. For the seniors both on and off the field, it is our last hurrah as a class together. Everyone should be really pumped up after one pep rally. Whoops, I promised not to talk about the tragedy of our school's oldest tradition falling apart at the hands of this administration. Some of the little things I will miss next fall, wherever I am will be the drives to places like Westford and Lincoln Sudbury for a Friday night football game or seeing the signs the Girls' Soccer team puts up in the hallway for each other or seeing the girls swim team fashionably wear sweat pants on days they have meets. This is what makes our school great. It's the students that all pull for each other when they have to go out and compete. The spaghetti dinner before the Acton game was a great idea. If we can't have a bonfire every week like Bedford or Wayland why not have a small dinner like that one and get everyone pumped up? I understand and know for a fact the "busy" students at our school can't get to all of these events because they have prior commitments. Actually I was just thinking if you're not involved in a club, on a sports team, or regularly attend school functions your only real connection to the school is the pep rallies, but they're gone, and I'm not

supposed to use this to talk about it.

Ah winter; school cancellations, shoveling, Christmas break, and lots and lots of success at BLS. Let's take a quick look at why our winter teams are so successful. In the DCL almost all of the schools have their own football fields with an outdoor track right around them with a wooded area somewhere nearby. Therefore, they spend lots of time practicing football, cross-country, and outdoor track. Basketball



Swim Team Captain Mike Donahue in action.

and hockey are what I like to call city sports(I.E. kids that live in the city are usually brought up playing these sports above everything else). This is my own opinion, whether you think football is a suburban sport or not is your own opinion, but for whatever the reason in the winter the Wolfpack's sports teams start the Monday after Thanksgiving and usually don't end until well into the tournaments in March.

Perhaps the best team in the school and obviously the one with the most success is, can you guess? If you said the Girls' Indoor Track team then you're right. After last year's State championship act the next will be a tough one to follow. Also they shoot for a fifth straight DCL title. True, they lost a national champion, but the girls on this team are such fierce coin-

petitors and determined athletes that this year they'll be right up there with the class of Massachusetts again. After a heartbreaking upset loss to Somerville in last year's State Semi-finals(which some of us still haven't gotten over), and a depleted offensive unit, look for the Boys' Hockey team to get defensive with fourth year goalie starter John Balconis between the pipes one more time. This team should contend for the league title again, since last year no one in the league beat them and sneak into the tournament with a seven or eight seed. From there I think they're going to surprise everyone and play well into March. The Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams should also contend at the top of their respective leagues and make tournament runs. I didn't think in high school you could actually lure people out of schools or offer them scholarships for sports, but nonetheless Torin Francis bolted for Tabor Academy, and with the loss of a few seniors last year the team will have to look for some senior leadership, which it should have plenty of. Bennie Myers on the other side of the gym always gets the best from his girls and has finished in the state top 20 three years in a row. Once again senior leadership will be key, but the team should fare well.

Some questions remain unanswered like where will the Wrestling team practice and what is the real answer to why we don't have pep rallies? One thing I forgot to mention above is the cheerleaders and step squad. They deserve a big shout out for having supported the Wolfpack so much throughout the past years. Where would everyone's spirit at the football games be without these two hard working groups? Yet, the winter is about to begin so come out and support our teams in the most successful season of the year. Until next time then, if you have any good Latin sports stories please share them with me; this is Superfan signing off.

Hockey at Latin

The Girls

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER

The Girls' Hockey team has a sad story to tell, of a deprived and unfair chance in a tough league. They have not all played together since they were little kids like their opponents.

They have not always found it easy to afford the best equipment at the sporting stores, but they have shown what it takes to be true champions in this tough sport. Just like all other inner city sports teams, our Girls' Hockey team has had to deal with disadvantages.

tags that their opponents have not, but no one hears them crying. Among many other disadvantages, they have had to cope with half the ice practice time that their opponents have had, yet they continue to improve. Raw talent conjured up with that good old Latin School grit and perseverance is what has put this team into such a competitive position coming into this season. With a new coach, Marty McDonough, whom they are very excited about, the team has set a goal of winning the Division II Eastern Massachusetts Championship this year. Coach McDonough is a WHL referee and is already making great improvements in the team's past weaknesses.

With 30 players showing up for the first captain's practice, the team looks to have a Junior Varsity team so that

more players will be able to get more playing time. Most of this year's new players are very young and aggressive. The team has at least one player from each grade including two sixies who have shown some bright talent early in the practices. With two games and at least two practices every week, they are scheduled to play many non-league games to get more experience. They are doing everything they can to improve their play as a team. The team will pride themselves in the strength of their defense this year, with returning defensive stars Courtney Carthas (freshman) and Jessica Price (junior) in addition to the team's all-star goalie.

Helen McCarthy (freshman). Not too many pucks are going to get past this crew. Led by senior captains Lauren Hurley and Naomi Miranda, the team hopes to capture the illusive division championship this year. They have high expectations this year with every game expected to be down to the wire, so give as much support as possible this season.

The Boys

By Meghan Nelligan, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a spectacular season in which they captured the DCL Championship, the Boston Latin Boys' Hockey team is looking forward to avenging their upsetting loss in the tournament last year. This year's edition starts with senior co-captains: the ever-consistent goalie John Balaconis and sniping forward Rick Belmonte. Along with the co-captains, the seniors on the team will be looked upon to provide leadership after the graduation of last year's leaders Brian Norton, Ryan Sweeney, and Jon Kearns. Defenseman Ryan Kearney looks to have a solid season as he provides offensive punch from the blue line as well as protecting Balaconis in the net.

looked upon to fill key starring roles. Charlie Levin is expected to use his "old time hockey" style to take the place of the graduated Norton on defense. The ever-aggressive Collins twins are key to the Wolfpack's success, with Nick providing a scoring punch at forward and Andrew stopping the opposition as a defenseman. Bringing finesse to the front line is Brian Carthas, who can always be counted upon to score. Mike Manning will begin to showcase his talents this year. Joe "William Wallace" Coffey is always one of the most intense and tenacious players on the ice.

This year's Boys Hockey team is ready to improve on last year's sparkling 15-3-1 record

Sophomores are also being expected to carry the load for the Wolfpack. The fearless Steve Kasper is ready to destroy people on the ice. Tim Mahoney and his heads-up style of play will create havoc for opposing teams' defensemen. James Duffy with the combination of quick feet and hands should be scoring quite a few goals this year.

With new editions to the squad and intense preparation, the Boys' Hockey team is ready to improve on last year's sparkling 15-3-1 record.

Coach Dave Coleman is prepared to add to his already over 400 career wins. This team is a tight-knit group with many of them having played together since Midgets League. The team's only true obstacle to overcome

may be concentrating on the game at hand, rather than their sexy managers

Meghan Nelligan and Jill Villani! The team is

ready to do this school proud, and the BLS community needs to get behind them. The Blue Line Club has been there from the beginning supporting the players, and now it is time for all fans to come out to the games. This team is set to achieve new heights and thrill us all once again.

Sports Editor Robert Orthman also contributed to this report.



Come support BLS Hockey and join the Blue Line Club. If you are interested, see Meghan Nelligan in HR 334.

Lady Wolfpack Running for DCL Crown

By Greg Porter, II
STAFF WRITER

The game of basketball has long been perceived to be a male dominated sport the presence of the NBA continues to grow and grow, but out of the shadow of the men has emerged the new presence of women in basketball. The WNBA and the NCAA Women's teams have sparked a new interest in women's basketball.

Our school has been on the cutting edge of women's basketball long before today's new interest in the sport on a college and professional level. During the past 20 years, the girls basketball program at Latin has grown tremendously. Their persistence and hard work have prompted even the most "old school" ones among us to say, "Hey these girls are good!"

In each of the past six years, our Varsity Girls Basketball team has won the DCL crown. The success of the program is without a doubt due to some extremely talented players, but the man behind the magic for all these years has been none other than the much unheralded coach Bennie Myers.

After finishing last season with a 17-6 record and a disappointing first round loss in the playoffs to eventual Division 2 state champ Methuen, coach Myers sees this as most likely a rebuilding year.

"We lost a lot of good players from last year," said Myers. "Kristen McDonnell became one of my 11 players to receive a scholarship to college. Talent like that is going to be missed this year."

There is no doubt that last year's team had something special about it. Seniors Maddie O'Donovan

and Lauren Smyth and junior Ashley "Primetime" Britton are at the helm as co-captains looking to repeat last year's success with an almost completely different roster. Senior Anya Drabkin is the only other member of Class I on the team. Sophomore Alexandra Allukian brings her flashy play to aid this year's squad's quest for success. Junior Catherine Stone



Veteran Guards Maddie O'Donovan and Ashley Britton will lead the Wolfpack this year.

brings a solid game to the court. Sophomores Kate Pappas, Heather Hansen, and Jackie Coffey will come off the bench to continue the Pack's expected fast-paced style. Eight-grader Kristin Stone is being looked upon by many as future star for the Wolfpack.

"You never know," said Coach Myers. "Nobody expected us to win last year, but look what hap-

pened. We are going to take just one game at a time and do our best to qualify for the playoffs."

The Lady Wolfpack do play in the powerhouse Dual County League. Early predictions give Concord-Carlisle, Weston, or Westford Academy the best chance to win the division.

"We certainly have a challenge set out for us," said Myers "We play some real tough teams including Westford who I think has the best player in the state, Jessica Devacy."

Thanks to Coach Myers, the girls basketball program has been greatly improved and student interest could not be greater. Coach Myers was quick to note that he has had a lot of help along the way.

"The girls can really learn the basics at the Freshman and J.V. levels," said Myers. "I think Sherry McLain (J.V.) and Terry Gaskill (Fres.) have done an excellent job coaching."

The Girls Varsity Basketball team began their quest for their seventh straight DCL title and trip to the playoffs on Tuesday December 14 at Newton South. A December 17 battle at home against Weston also loomed large. Some other noteworthy games are on Friday January 7 Westford at BLS at 7:30pm and on Friday February 11 when Concord-Carlisle comes to Latin for a 7:30pm start.

"I think we can have a good year," said Myers. "In my opinion, I think we have two of the top two guards in the state in O'Donnovan and Britton. For the first time though in 11 years we are going to be weak at the center position. If the girls work hard and play hard, we have a very good chance of making the post-season."

Experienced Squad Guiding Wolfpack in DCL

By Timothy McDonald, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Latin Boys' Basketball team enjoyed tremendous success last year,



Senior Manny Monteiro takes to the air

finishing 14-6 and securing a second place finish in the DCL. Always competitive in the DCL, the team faces a difficult task this year. They lost many quality seniors including Steve Barry, Joel Bernazanni, and Ed Marshall to graduation and one tall sophomore to recruitment. The Basketball team does

return many Varsity veterans, however, and should have a quality core of players enabling them to compete for the DCL Title.

Seniors Adrian Townsend and Mike Young will play the forward positions.

Young, last year's leading scorer, will remain the Wolfpack's primary offensive weapon. Distributing the rock for the Wolfpack will be senior guards Matty Mitchell and Manny Monteiro. Senior Aaron McCormick, with a year of Varsity experience under his belt, will start at center for the Wolfpack. Having all five starters with Varsity experience should prove a boost for the Pack as their league schedule progresses.

"We have a good chance of going somewhere this year because of our bench; we have players coming off the bench who are just as good as the starters," says Monteiro. Indeed, the Wolfpack's bench will prove to be an asset

this year, with nine players waiting to contribute. Junior guards Brian Hughes and Christian O'Donnell, with senior Chimdi Uchendu should turn out to be quality subs for Mitchell and Monteiro. The Wolfpack's forward position is full on the bench, with seniors Thomas Imahiyero and John Fitzgerald and

juniors Keith MacDonald and Ugo Ojimba. Backing up Aaron McCormick at the center spot are seniors Frantz Supreme and Ozwald Gooden

Coach McNamara's team will face a difficult schedule this year, including games against a tough Westford Academy team, arch-rival Boston English, and the competitive Holiday Basketball tournament December 28 through the 29 in Stoughton. The game against our arch rival Boston English, always a talented city squad, will be the final game of the season before the State Tournament and is bound to be a rivalry filled game. Boston Latin will surely be looking to make a statement before the State Tournament begins, and a win against Boston English will go a long way towards impressing the Wolfpack's doubters.

The Wolfpack's greatest strength should be the presence of quality guards and the experience of the six returning Varsity team members. Mitchell and Monteiro will be the keys to the Wolfpack's success this year, setting the tempo for the Wolfpack's offense. All the offense will flow through Mitchell and Monteiro, and the Wolfpack will be in good hands with these two veterans. The importance of forward, and primary scorer, Mike Young cannot be over stated. A danger



Senior forward and leading scorer Mike Young heats up the court.

because of both his jumpshot and his drives to the basket. Young is the Pack's first option on offense, and his drives to the basket create quality scoring opportunities for his teammates.

Mitchell confidently, despite the fact that no games have been played at press time, insists that BLS "will contend for the DCL Championship." It is certainly early to be making such bold predictions, but the Wolfpack has history on its side. With a deep bench, some of that confidence that Mitchell has, and their veteran experience, Latin looks to contend in the DCL.

Sports Spotlight



Madeleine O'Donovan

By Elizabeth Maher, I
STAFF WRITER

Some know her as Madeleine O'Donovan, a sometimes outspoken and always conscientious student. Others know her simply as Maddie, that girl who wears a neon green rubber band around her head, sandals with socks pulled up to her knees, and a scarf around her neck just to get a kick out of herself and a laugh out of others. Her coaches and teammates know her as a leader by example, someone who steps up in the game as well as afterwards, someone who is passionate about her play and performance.

It is no fluke that this girl was voted most athletic in the senior class. She has played varsity soccer and basketball since the ninth grade, and she was rewarded with the title of co-captain for both teams. This fall she helped lead the Wolfpack to one of their all-time best records on the soccer field. Her celerity is arguably her best trait; she can sprint past defenders, save balls that others thought were surely out, and run the court as hard as anyone. But perhaps, it is her anticipation, her vision on the court and on the field that makes her such a dominant player. She knows the way her opponents set up a play even before they know it, and she uses this foresight to her advantage.

During the fall season, Maddie plays a strong right wing with a killer shot, an accurate cross, and most importantly the blow-past-you speed. Last year she was the leading scorer on the team, and this past season she had the most assists on the squad. Maddie was chosen as a first team All Star for her senior year, a fitting completion to a 1998 second team nomination. She was proud of the mild success of the team this year, noting that "it was at times frustrating, but we worked together and really gave it 100 percent."

Maddie is most well known for her play on the court because of her persistent defense and the tireless effort she puts in every minute she is out there. As a 2-guard, Mad-dog is able to contribute to the success of the team defensively and offensively. She is realistic about the upcoming season: "This is a rebuilding year. We have lost key players the past two seasons. I've been privileged to play with one of the best backcourts in the state, but this year is going to be tough; we are all going to have to work really hard." Maddie hopes to be able to lead the Wolfpack back to the tournament for the fourth consecutive year.

Outside of the athletic circuit, Maddie is busy with school and with the college process. She doesn't know where she will be next year or what sport she will play but knows only that she wants to compete at the next level. Kristen McDonnell, class of '99 and now playing at Stonehill, is a strong influence on Maddie. "Kristen loves the game and always gives it everything she has, but she has fun doing it. That's the key; she is good at something she loves to do and is so dedicated to it."

Just because she is the most athletic girl in the senior class does not mean that Maddie is a dumb jock. She takes a number of challenging AP courses and is diligent about making approbation every term. Competing and doing well in school at the same time has taught her time management and the importance of being organized, two lessons that will serve her well in college.

What Maddie will miss most about Latin is her father attending her basketball games. "He didn't make them all, but when he did, he sat on the visitor's side. He listened to the parents' and coaches' comments about me and the team, and then we would always laugh about it later." However you see Maddie, there are undeniable facts about her life: she is fast, she is athletic, she is smart, and she likes to laugh, she likes to laugh a lot.

Swimming: Men In Speedos

By Erin Burke, II
STAFF WRITER

They may be a small crowd, but definitely don't misjudge the celerity with which these men in Speedos fly through the water. The Boston Latin Boys' Swim team is looking forward to an extremely successful season while remaining competitive in the very able Duel County League.

With the possibility of an assistant coach helping out the lone chief, Bruce Conley, this year's team looks to sharpen up their strokes, turns, and starts with much individual attention split between the low count of guys. Becoming faster in the various events, such as the 50 yard free, 100 yard butterfly, 500 yard free, and 200 yard IM, these boys work hard and diligently in the water. Stacking up yardage in each practice as the season progresses, the swimmers do anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 yards a day (that's 120-240 laps) to strengthen their muscles and their endurance. Practices are not easy by any means as you need arm power, abdominal strength, leg strength, and cardiovascular strength



Junior Erico Lopez dives in.

to make it through them. The leader of the team and probable captain is senior Mike Donahue, who qualified for the North Sectional meet at the end of the season in the 100 yard breast and 200 IM. A two-time Dual County League All Star, he looks to lead the team to a winning season. Junior Danny O'Reilly is also optimistic about this season and plans to qualify for sectionals in the 100 yard backstroke and keep his time in the 100 freestyle under a minute. Kevin Mann, Class II, is also returning in high spirits and wishes to excel in the 50 and 500 yard free events. Senior Ricky Morse will help the team score points in the 200 IM, as will junior Seth Thomases in the 50 free (which he's qualified for sectionals) and the 100 fly. Along

with the hopeful new members on the team, members Steven Rice and Dante Poles are expected to return this season to help out their fellow teammates. This small but powerful bunch is ready to cut down their times and qualify for sectionals and states in all the various events.

Although nothing can be said for certain this early in the season, one thing's for sure: no matter how big the other team is, BLS Swimming will not cower and will give a strong effort to come out on top.

Wrestling: Men In Spandex

By Ryan Still, I
STAFF WRITER

It's around 3 o'clock or so. You just finished making up your test, and you head down the hallway so that you can catch the bus and go home. The hallways are relatively quiet and appear barren when all of a sudden you see a group of kids running up the stairs. Or maybe down the stairs if they're lucky. You think, they can't be late to class, school's over. What the heck are they doing? Well, those kids, those are our school's wrestlers.

This rigorous training is necessary in order for the Wolfpack to compete this year in the DCL.

And the running up the stairs thing? That's called training. They'll be running stairs EVERYDAY until the wrestling season is over. I know I get a little winded making my way from the basement to the 3rd floor. Now imagine running up and down those stairs for a 45 minute period. Latin's wrestlers don't need to imagine that because that's just a part of their practice. After that, they'll make their way to the gym



Senior Kevin Daly is ready to pounce on competition.

where they'll grab mats and carry them to the cafeteria. Due to the construction, the wrestling team will be practicing where we're used to eating. In the cafe, they'll work out and condition and eventually square off against one another.

Seem tough? I'll be the first to say that it probably is very tough. However, this rigorous training is necessary in order for the Wolfpack to compete this year in the DCL. Especially, when all the other teams within the DCL have certain advantages. One advantage is that these schools have first class weight rooms which allow for ideal lifting. The second advantage is that, wrestling in a gym as opposed to a cafeteria, is always helpful.

Last year the Wolfpack had a disappointing season, finishing close to the bottom of the DCL standings. Plagued by injuries and a lack of experienced wrestlers the Pack struggled throughout the season. This year however, things are looking up. Led by a new coach Mr. Azer, seniors Kevin Daly, Bart Jones, John Paul (Biggie) Bravo, James Duane, and Michael

DiAngelis, all hope to aid in putting a few W's under the win column this year.

This is REAL wrestling ladies and gentleman. There will be no jumping off ropes, illegal use of chairs, bells, or belts, and no theme songs when the wrestlers are introduced. Yet, it's still exciting and entertaining. So if you do have to stay after school to make up that test and there's a match that day, catch the next bus, and watch some wrestling.

Wrestling Weight Classes

- 103 LBS.
- 112 LBS.
- 119 LBS.
- 125 LBS.
- 130 LBS.
- 135 LBS.
- 140 LBS.
- 145 LBS.
- 152 LBS.
- 160 LBS.
- 171 LBS.
- 189 LBS.
- 215 LBS.
- HVY Weights

Indoor Track Ready to Hop, Skip, and Jump Over Competition

By Mary Preap, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Latin Indoor Track team deserves praise. Although I am somewhat partial to the sport, since I did run my sophomore year, they should still be recognized. They have a very strong team and it seems like it is growing stronger each year.

Track in the past has been perceived as being an easy sport. "Everyone can run," right? Wrong. It takes plenty of hard work and skill to be able to compete at the top level that this team competes on. It also takes determination and sheer willpower. Running is not only hard on the body but can also be drain-

ing on the mind as well. Anyone who plays a competitive sport can understand that.

Pack this year to another DCL title. Juniors Dee Owolewa, Aisha Court, and Tam Pham are also ready to rock, not to mention the other talented runners on the team. Bridget Butler, a sophomore, is one of the new talents on the track team. She joined the outdoor track team last year and is currently getting ready for the indoor season. She even made it to the

regionals for cross-country so look out for her this winter to have similar success in Indoor Track.

Seniors Mike Lyons, Ross Forbes, and Alex Bien-Aime as well as junior Joe Coffey are leading the Boys' Indoor Track team this winter. The Boys' team is in a rebuilding stage this year as it lost a couple of key runners last year including Will Springfield and Mike Perakis. Although the Boys' team is significantly smaller than the Girls' team, what they lack in

number they more than make up for in spirit as they always give 110%.

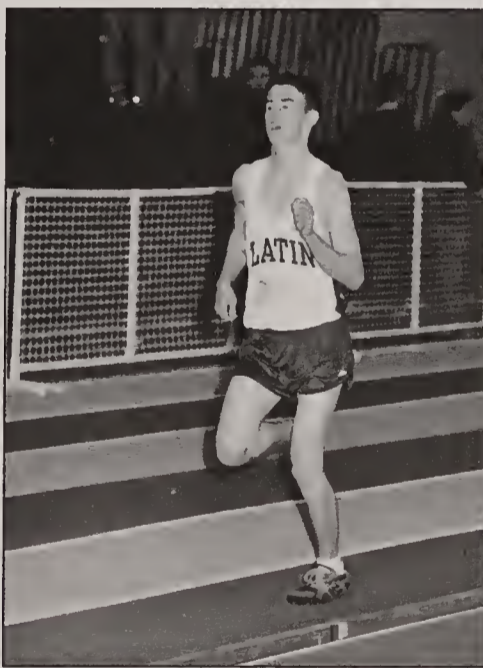
The Indoor team practices at the Reggie Lewis Center, inside BLS (where seven laps are supposed to be the equivalent of a mile and where an oblivious passerby might get run down by a runner doing one of Coach De Rocha's speed workouts. And might I add the runners have the added feat of trying to avoid hitting the double doors in between the corridors, (just in case one of them decides it does not want to stay open), and on occasion if the weather is not too bad, they run outside. The Fens are an intricate part in the training of new runners. By the end of the season, they will know the courses by heart and could probably run them with their eyes closed (assuming, of course, that there would be no other obstacles to hinder them i.e.: cars, pets, people, etc.).

A majority of the meets is at the Reggie Lewis Center, so if any one is interested in going to a track meet this would be a great opportunity. The meets are always interesting because the competition is so

tough. It is exciting to watch and they would love the support.

On January 24, 2000 the BLS Indoor Track team has a meet against Westford Academy and Weston. It shall prove to be very interesting. This year the races will be intense. They will be more focused because they will have had a chance to grow together as a team in the course of the season.

Last but not least, Coach DeRocha and Coach Pritchard have been working hard for a number of years to keep the Track team together. They are hard on the runners but they are also caring (The lack of funding for sports in Boston Public Schools do limit the equipment that is provided for the Track team so the coaches make up for the shortage of money by sometimes paying for the equipment themselves). They are extremely busy people, but they always make time for their runners. The team feels like a second family, in large part because of Mr. De Rocha and Ms. Pritchard make it a priority



Senior Mike Lyons, a.k.a. The Viking, going the distance.

to cheer on other teammates. They stress working as a team as a part of training. Another great thing about the track team is the annual trip to Riverside Park in June. It is a day to have fun and relax. The team goes, and it is a reward for all the work that everyone on the team has done.

So go to a track meet or better yet join the track team. Either way it will be a good experience.



Nationally ranked senior Mary Ellen Bingham soars in the triple jump.



Senior Maryanne Porter working hard in the relay

The team feels like a second family.

For the past four consecutive years, the Girls' Track team has won the DCL Indoor Championships. They have tough competition every year from Newton South and Westford Academy. We have had amazing runners on the team in the past and most recently: Monique Tubbs, Kim Roche, and Lauren Demore. With the loss of these runners, this should be an interesting year for the Girls' Track team. However, seniors MaryAnne Porter, MaryEllen Bingham, Stephanie Johnson, Sue Byrne, Shana Gearty and Rachel Racusen should lead the



Junior Aisha Cort clears the bar in the high jump.

Sports Spotlight



John Balaconis

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

John Balaconis is one of the most unsung athletes at the Latin school. In school, he carries himself quietly and unassumingly. On the hockey rink, though, Bal, as he is known by many, is a ferocious competitor and the backbone of the Boys' Hockey team.

John has been the star goalie on the hockey team since his freshman year. It was evident early on to even the casual hockey observer that the Wolfpack had found itself a rock in the net. Bal has not disappointed the masses. He has arisen to become one of the best goalies in the league and a DCL All-Star. He also has become a senior co-captain on this year's squad.

The best way to describe John is that he is very easy going. When asked to comment on this John said, "I prepare myself well so there is no need to ever worry." One can see that Bal has a quiet confidence about him. His intense preparation and concentration enable him not to let anything worry him. Bal's pre-game preparation is mysterious to some, but it enables him to get into a solid frame of mind. "I get my lower body equipment on first," he stated, "then I meditate by visualizing the puck in my head." It is that type of concentration that makes Bal the great player he is.

John has some great memories from his hockey career here at Latin. He remembers, "when we beat Acton 2-1 my freshmen year with the winning goal coming in the last seventeen seconds of the game." Bal also recalls a game that many in the BLS community remember well, "When we upset Franklin 4-3 in overtime of the state tournament my sophomore year." As Bal has many times repeated, "I played good against Franklin." He, however, adds that, "I shouldn't have given up those goals, though." The quest for perfection keeps Bal improving. John is always striving to be better than he already is.

When asked which NHL goaltender he is most like, John said, "Martin Brodeur (of the New Jersey Devils) because he's a goalie who tries to stay on his feet as long as possible, but is quick enough to get back into position when he does go down." Bal emulates that style in his play. He is strong enough to stay up and stop the puck, yet agile enough to get down on the ice and make a breathtaking save.

Bal is also a two year member of the Varsity Soccer team. He has some great soccer memories as well. He remembers when fellow hockey co-captain and soccer teammate Rick Belmonte "hit himself in the face with the ball by accident." Soccer teammate Andrew Dubrowski added that "Bal had never laughed so hard in his life." Dubrowski also commented on Bal's strength saying "He's the Incredible Bal, with the strength of ten Bal's." Well, yes, Bal is quite strong.

Getting away from the sports arena for a few moments, John is also a scholar in the classroom. He takes three AP courses: Calculus AB, US History, and Chemistry. His favorite is Chemistry. For colleges, Bal is looking into Harvard, the Air Force Academy, Princeton, RPI, and BC. In his free time away from the ice and school, Bal just likes to work out and then relax. He wakes up very early as well to do his paper route for the Boston Globe.

Bal is a quiet leader on the hockey team. He is prepared to lead the team far this year. When asked about this year's edition, Bal said, "I think we look just as strong as last year's team if not better, but we will see what happens when the season starts." With John Balaconis in the goal, the Latin community is confident that this year's team will experience great success.

School Spirit Prevails!



Photographs by Casey Garr and Tim McDonald
Arranged by Andrea Alessi

Notes

Congratulations to Maddie O'Donovan and Manny Monteiro for their first place finishes as Best Senior Class Athletes. A special congratulations to Lucas Glavin for his stunning third place finish for Best Athlete of the Senior Class. Smells a little fishy to us. We demand a full investigation by Sheriff Gillooly.

The Sports Department would like to acknowledge the DCL Football All-Stars from BLS: seniors Bayo Owolewa, Manny Monteiro, Emeka Ajene, Dennis Harris, and Tim McDonough.

Congratulations to senior Massielle Morales for being named DCL Girls Volleyball MVP. In addition to being named DCL MVP, Massielle was selected as a DCL All-Star as was junior Carolyn Lennon.

Fall Records

The Boys' Football team finished the season with a 6-4 record, 5-3 in the Dual County League.
The Boys' Soccer team finished the season with a record of 5-10-3.
The Girls' Soccer team finished the season with a record of 3-15-0.
The Girls' Volleyball team finished the season with a record of 7-8.
The Girls' Cross Country team finished the season with a record of 5-3.
The Boys' Cross Country team finished the season with a record of 0-8.
The Golf Team finished the season with a record of 0-16.

Winter Game Schedule

Girl's Hockey	12/27	@Fontbonne	4:00 PM
Boy's Swim Team	1/18	vs. Newton North	3:30 PM
Girl's Basketball	1/21	vs. Newton South	6:00 PM
Varsity Wrestling	1/22	@Somerset (tourney)	8:00 AM
Indoor Track	2/5	Reggie Lewis Center	12:00 PM
Boys' Hockey	2/15	vs. Somerville	3:30 PM
Boys' Basketball	2/19	All-Star @ Concord	6:00 PM
Boys' Basketball	2/22	@Boston English	11:00 AM



Boston Latin School ARGO

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Free

On Top of the World

Robert Orthman, I and Jonathan
Krieger, IV

SPORTS EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boys' Hockey team has ascended to the top of the BLS sports' world. This team has been flying high and has terrorized opponents in the MVC-DCL. Sparked by a high-powered offense and the ability to stop their opponents' offense, this team is soaring to new heights. Coach Coleman has molded a mix of veterans and young players to form a squad that will likely challenge for a Division II championship and maybe even beyond.

Like any other really good hockey team, it all starts with the goaltending. The Wolfpack is lead at the corc by senior goalie and co-captain, John Balaconis. Balaconis has so far been an unbreakable backbone for this team. He has been a rock in the net. Balaconis has lived up to the hype that made him a Sports Spotlight last edition.

If there was a point of concern for the hockey team before the season began, it was the defense. The loss of All-Star Brian Norton to graduation left big shoes to fill in the role of protecting Balaconis. The team has responded to the call, though, and has done a fine job on the blue line. Seniors Ryan Kearney and George McEvoy have formed a strong tandem defensively that is able



Nick Collins breaks in front of the goal for a scoring chance. Collins anchors Latin's top line with Center Brian Carthas and Senior Ricky Belmonte.

to provide offense as well. Juniors Andrew Collins and Charlie Levin have also played worthy of recognition and have provided an offensive spark. The defensemen are playing solid defense and are scoring to boot. With the play this team's forwards are playing, though, the defensemen scoring is a welcomed luxury, not a necessity.

The forwards have been extraordinary for the Pack. The first line of senior co-captain Rick Belmonte and juniors Brian Carthas and Nick Collins has been spectacular. They have been scoring with a frightening efficiency (frightening to the rest of the teams in the league that is). This team's second line has been every bit as effective for Coach Coleman. The smell of Scotland is in the air as underclassmen Joey "William Wallace" Coffey, Jim Duffy and Mike Manning form an exciting trio that works well together on the ice.

HOCKEY, Page 16

Violent Incident at BLS

By Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Boston Latin School Community was sent a disturbing reminder on February 10 that despite our academic prowess, our MCAS performance, and our classical curriculum, we are not immune to the one problem that has plagued high schools across America -- violence.

On that day, behind the school on Palace Road, a fight occurred between, as a memorandum from Head Master Kelley stated, "[s]ome Class II Boston Latin School white males and some non-Boston Latin School Asian males."

History Department Member Robin Kirkpatrick witnessed the event first hand after the close of school that day. "Dozens of students were involved," she said.

The altercation began when students were throwing snowballs at one another. Soon, however, students abandoned the snow ball, and the situation turned into a full-fledged fight, with some students even using hockey sticks as weapons. "I saw lots of fists (and sticks) flying, several bloody and/or broken noses, at least one kid with a knife. . . Several of the kids looked to be beaten pretty badly," said

Kirkpatrick.

Soon after the fight began some teachers tried in vain to break up the altercation, but it was not until the school security paraprofessional Barbara Russo, with the aid of school police officers, arrived on the scene that the situation subsided. In the mean time, however, one student had been cut with a knife, and others sustained various minor injuries.

Although the student who was cut did not need medical attention, the Boston Police Department has been giving a significant amount of attention to this incident. The following day approximately twelve police officers in seven marked and unmarked cars, conducted searches and interrogations of dozens of non-BLS people.

Police Department officials have committed to working with the BLS administration to develop a better plan for ensuring student safety at the close of school. At a number of Boston Public Schools, such as Dorchester High, police officers are on hand for the close of each school day. Boston Latin School will be developing its own safety plan within the next few weeks.

This incident is one of a number of security breaches that have occurred in the last few years, but with the new resources committed by the Police Department, positive strides are expected to be made in safety soon.

If You Build It, They Will Come

By Meghann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

On December 23, the final beam was installed in the new addition at the "Topping Off Ceremony," which was originally scheduled to be held earlier but was postponed due to inclement weather. Ms. Kelley, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Russell, a few Argo staffers and construction personnel were all present on this rather crisp day; however, the cold was easily fought off with the excitement of this historic occasion.

It began with friendly handshakes between BLS and Suffolk Construction representatives; everyone wore a smile and a hard-hat as we signed the freshly painted white beam. Genuine and heartfelt messages were written on the beam by all: the Head Master's "Sumus Primi," Mrs. Russell's "May it stand forever," Rolo's Mary Tyler Moore-esque "We're gonna make it after all, 1635-2000 and beyond," and Suffolk Local 7 Iron Workers' "Merry Christmas" and "For the family." As for me, I wrote a simple "It was all worth it — Meghann McCarthy, Class of 2000."

A crane, specially brought in for this ceremony, then began to lift the beam into its place. We all stepped back gingerly as the crane went to work, though Mrs. Russell noted that, "We're just being cautious." As the white beam, decorated with a Boston Latin School banner, a Charlie Brown-esque Christ-

mas tree, and Old Glory, was lifted, cheers rang out from Mrs. Daly's room, where students were hanging out the windows awed by the excitement of the event. Two workers positioned the beam in its proper place as Mrs. Russell jokingly volunteered our own Mr. Flynn to brave the heights and help the men solder the beam

into place. Pictures were taken, and as the cameras flashed, Ms. Kelley requested that the pictures be cropped above her ever-practical Easy Spirit sneakers.

After the small and austere ceremony, we were invited into the little mobile-home offices for some "refreshments: coffee, muffins, and martinis," as one Suffolk worker joked (I think). We all gathered in the warmth of the Suffolk Construction office, where, amid the array of blueprints, was a spread that could top any Au Bon Pain counter. The BLS representatives and the Suffolk crew mingled and joked as they wished each other Happy Holidays. The Head Master's sentiments mirrored my own when she remarked, "Well, that was exciting!"

Construction continues outside to this day (and beyond), but all at the ceremony knew that they had witnessed a milestone on the way to a new and improved BLS.



The ceremony to "top off" the addition to the new wing commenced as the construction and BLS personnel gathered to recognize this achievement. (Photos by C. Garr)

Dictator’s Note

By Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There have been a number of topics that have been addressed in this issue’s Argo that have been of significant concerns that students have had for a number of years. We have addressed graffiti the bathrooms, the completely overburdened guidance staff, the issues of race, and violence.

The Argo seeks to raise awareness and open the dialogue. Sometimes we succeed, and some times we fall short. Sometimes we have the privilege of knowing that an article has been an agent of change in Boston Latin School.

However, as member of the Boston Public School System, there are a number of constraints under which BLS must operate, the largest of which being our budget. The alumni of our school have been more than generous, and their contributions that have helped make BLS the incredible school that it is, but we must also seek to get the most that we can out of our school department. Latin School has the highest achievement in the commonwealth on the MCAS exams, but yet it has the lowest per-pupil expenditure in Boston.

There are still two budget hearings remaining: March 1 at the O’Hearn Elementary School in Dorchester, and March 15 at the Jackson-Mann Elemen-

tary in Allston.

We have an obligation to our school community to make it the best that it can be. Our ability to ensure that our needs are addressed is determined in large part by the BPS Budget. We must not be overlooked, and I invite all members of the school community to attend and be heard.

As student representative to the School Committee, I especially invite students to come and be heard on the issues that will impact their education. We have taken a world-class education from Boston Latin. The least that we can give back is advocacy on its behalf. Latin School is a great American institution, but is only as strong as its members.

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Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to <bls_argo@yahoo.com>, given to Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in 302, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the Main Office.

All students interested in working on the Argo should check the Daily Bulletin for the dates of individual department meetings.

To advertise in the Argo, please contact our business manager, Lisa DeBenedictis in 335.

Boston Latin School

Argo

Founded in 1970

1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award

1996 Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition 3rd Place

1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents, and alumni. The expressions, suggestions, and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editor. The Argo reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

The Argo is produced as an extra-curricular activity. All typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Ask the Argo

Got a question you’re just dying to ask? Got a burning desire to know? Well, just ask the Argo! Our multitudes of trained editors won’t rest until we have the answer! Submit questions to any of our editors or e-mail them to bls_argo@yahoo.com.

Q. Where is the *Lampoon*?
A. “What *Lampoon*? There is no *Lampoon*! There never was a *Lampoon*! You’re crazy!” -- Rolo

Q. Where is Mr. Power’s room?
A. Everywhere except 312.

Q. In the wake of major changes in the Boston Latin School infrastructure, can we continue to count on the Argo for the latest in school news, sports, and hot topics of the day?
A. Sure. Probably.

Q. Where does the Argo get all those carnations for Valentine’s Day?
A. Some lady in Downtown Crossing gave them to us. And then she expected money! The nerve!

Q. The Table of Contents mentions a crossword puzzle. Where is it?
A. Good question. You may have been a victim of the group of upperclassmen producing counterfeit Argos in the Mac Lab after hours. This nefarious group was also responsible for the senseless attack on the back page headline in Issue 1. If you believe you are a victim of this vile conspiracy, please immediately return your paper to its bin or pile.

Q. Are the intrepid Argonauts afraid of anything?
A. Only the man-eating sideburns of Dan (Danger) Greenberg. You can’t stop the Danger, you know.

Q. How much paper is consumed in the production of a single copy of the Argo?
A. Enough to wallpaper every room in the mansion Rolo bought with money from the Holiday Messages.

Q. Really?
A. No. Actually, it’s only enough for three walls of the master bathroom.

Q. So what was up with the cracked stairs?
A. Let’s just say this: sometimes it doesn’t pay to make Rolo mad.

Q. What’s yellow and always points north?
A. A magnetic banana.

Q. Who was responsible for that pathetic attempt of a joke?
A. Don’t tell Rolo you thought that wasn’t funny. (See above.)

Q. Is it true that nothing has ever been censored from the Argo?
A. You bet your \$%*.

Q. Do the various departments of the Argo get along?
A. Nope. The long and bitter feuds between departments are legendary. Recall the brutal, libellous dogma from Issue 1 -- “News Department Sucks” -- and its Issue 2 reply --“Forum Found to Be Really Stupid.” In fact, Sunday night on pay-per-view, it’s Sports vs. A&E in the steel cage: this time, it’s personal!

Q. What is the favorite food of the Argo staff during those late nights?
A. We don’t eat here in the prestigious and squeaky-clean Mac Lab. We just drink. We drink an awful lot.

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Mr. Power
Mr. Tyner

News

TAG Ends '99 With Hit Show

By Sabrina Acloque, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first club-sponsored show of the school year was a success. On December 10, 1999, the Talented and Gifted Hispanic Club (TAG) put on the sixth annual Ritmo/Sabor Latino. A celebration of Hispanic culture, it was a night of entertainment in the auditorium followed by dinner in the cafeteria. The audience was a mixture of students, teachers, and parents who came to offer encouragement and support.

The theme of this year's show was "The New Millennium — Making the Difference." Our mission was to make the community aware of the plight of poverty-stricken children living in Colombia, "the children of the streets," who are all too often left neglected by the government and by their families. The slide show presented to the audience before the commencement of the production, as well as the photographs displayed afterward, were testimony to how the children live their daily lives, and how we as high school students can try to make a difference. A portion of the proceeds from that night went towards helping the impoverished children of Colombia.

The show opened with a poem that linked Hispanic dance back to its African origins, performed by Sabrina Acloque, TAG club president, and was eloquently concluded with the poem "Then and Now," written and performed by Senior Class President and TAG member Drudys Nicolas.

This year's Ritmo Latino was special because it hosted a variety of historical and modern perfor-

mances that coincided with the theme of the past aiding the development of the present and symbolized the constant strive for the Latino community to move forward. The masters of ceremony Spencer Sanchez, Jose Flores, and Eliztaicha Marrero, provided listeners with a list of notable Hispanics and their accomplishments throughout the 20th century.

The show would not have been a success without the generous help of the alumni, all of them former members of TAG, who devoted their time, effort, and energy to make our show a memorable one. These people included percussionist and former TAG president Damian Padro ('97), singer/dancer Donaxi Tabora ('97), dancer/choreographer Rafael Gutierrez ('99), dancer and former TAG president Ilyitch Tabora ('99), and dancer Olivia Thompson ('99). In addition, we cannot refrain from thanking the many teachers who helped us behind the scenes, our coordinator at UMASS Boston, Siri Colomand the devoted Ines Masmela, a parent contact for the Hispanic Parents Association.

Lastly, TAG's members and its cohesive network of leaders cannot go without recognition. They have helped TAG reach milestones, shaped it so that all people are welcome, and made it possible to have fun while learning about Hispanic culture at the same time. TAG's members are the embodiment of the club, and they are the best example of our motto, "En la unidad, está la fuerza."

TAG's door is always open to interested students and faculty. We meet on Thursdays in room 331 after school. Drop by, learn about the club, grab a bite to eat, or join us on a trip. We're always doing something. Don't hesitate.

Guidance Forum

By Karen Webster, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 3, 2000, Student Council met with Mr. Peter Lee, head of the Boston Public Schools Department of Guidance, to discuss the positive qualities of Guidance at Boston Latin School, as well as aspects that needed improvement.

To the credit of BLS Guidance, test preparation (such as the Princeton Review), extra academic help (including After School Tutoring and Saturday Success School), and an understanding of personal needs were listed among the many strengths of Guidance. Students also appreciated the advice of experienced counselors and workshops on such topics as stress management and grief counseling.

However, students also brought up a number of issues that need to be addressed. One fact is overwhelmingly obvious: more guidance counselors are needed. In most suburban high schools, the student-to-guidance counselor ratio is approximately 150-to-1. In Boston Latin, the ratio is closer to 300-to-1. While students at the top and bottom of the class get much attention, the "middle people" who make up the majority are left behind. A larger guidance staff would lower the student-to-counselor ratio, making it possible for counselors to visit more students on a general basis, instead of contacting them only when an academic crisis arises. Counselors would then be more accessible to students.

Also discussed was the issue of switching guidance counselors at the beginning of junior year. While each counselor has fewer students to work with, some students felt that there is little time for them to develop meaningful relationships. As a result, college recommendations are sometimes based more on student questionnaires than personal interaction.

As a first step towards improving the Guidance system, the Latin School community has put forth several ideas, and has rallied around a goal of working with the School Department to procure a Guidance Program Director, more secretarial help (for all the paperwork that anyone could do, but by which the counselors' time is consumed), and more guidance counselors. All three of these would greatly enhance the work that our guidance staff already does. With more secretaries to simply stuff and stamp envelopes, fewer deadlines would be missed (especially for college applications).

One suggestion is to encourage integration of guidance with the rest of the school's resources. The Guidance Office is isolated from the rest of the school physically, but by working together, we may be able to make sure that it does not seem isolated from the network of school services in any other way.

Mr. Peter Lee and Ms. Carolyn Reilly (Director of Nurses and Student Support) were more than supportive of all the ideas and issues that the Student Council members brought to the floor. When Mr. Lee first started to speak, he stepped off the platform so as not to "teach." He told us about his experience with guidance counselors in high school, and his story mirrored ours. The middle group got little attention because there were too many students for the number of counselors. The question was raised — do we want quantity or quality from our guidance department?

The answer is both. No matter how talented a person is as a counselor, to expect him to represent 300 students is asking a little too much. We were also informed that a survey showed that 20% of students in Boston say that there is no one at their school they would go to with a problem. After hearing about some of the support people we have here, the general consensus was that many students are not aware of many of the services available to them. What was comforting about this meeting is the knowledge that there are people out there (with power) who know what our problems are. Mr. Lee seems hopeful that there will be improvements, and that we as students can work with the Guidance Department in the future to address our concerns and help inform the student body of the number of valuable services that Guidance works hard to provide for us.

Future Search Conference 2000

By Mary Preap, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

What is going to happen to diversity at Boston Latin School as a result of the termination of quotas that designated seats for minority students? Will Boston Latin continue to be racially and culturally diverse, or will diversity become a word on the verge of extinction in the BLS community? These are questions that concern many stakeholders such as parents, educators, students, and administrators. On January 13, 2000, the Future Search Conference was held to discuss what actions BLS could take to have a role in educating the racially and ethnically diverse student population in Boston. For the next three days, conference attendees discussed issues ranging from world events to the plight of the educational system in Boston. The group attending the conference was made up of BLS faculty, students, and parents. There were also community activists, professors, and administrators from the Boston Public Schools.

Each individual who attended the conference held different views, and part of the goal of the conference was to use these opinions to get a picture of what actions Boston Latin can take to nurture diversity in its community. Participants went through introductions and were placed in groups and given

brainstorming exercises to get to know each other better, but also to start building ideas about what we could do to accomplish the goals of the conference. We made timelines of major events in the history of BLS, the history of the United States, and our own personal histories. Using this information, we started discussing issues that concerned all of us. We then discussed what goals BLS should have concerning its entrance policies and the role it should play in developing programs for other Boston Public School students.

The range of issues people wanted to discuss could not possibly have been covered within such a short period of time. Some people wanted to use tests and grades as the only criteria for entrance into the exam schools, while others wanted the criteria to be multi-faceted with recommendations and interviews added in as necessities upon which acceptances would be based. Some traditionalists argued for ability to be the only qualification necessary to attend BLS. They agreed that issuing acceptances based on race or ethnicity would not necessarily guarantee quality. Others argued that potentials students should be given a chance and that part of what BLS is all about is including all types of students from throughout the city.

The experience was bittersweet. I was able to listen in on what people had to say, not just about the school but also about life. It was exhausting because such passionate views were voiced during the course of the three-day discussion, but the highlight of the conference was definitely having the opportunity to meet interesting and, yes, diverse people who were willing to come together to work on a project they believe in. By the end of the conference, I realized that there was a long road ahead of us if we wanted to wage this battle.

There are plans to continue the work started at the Future Search Conference. Some group members are keeping in contact and are planning to reach out to the public by producing newsletters and talking to others about their work in order to encourage support for this noble, but ambitious, undertaking.



BLS Community members gather to address the issue of maintaining ethnic and cultural diversity at the school. (Photo by L. Dai)

The Princeton Review at BLS

By Lee Guo, II
STAFF WRITER

Do you want to attend the college of your choice? Do you want to do well on your SATs? If you want it all, take the Princeton Review course at BLS. This may sound like an infomercial, but the statistics are impressive among last year's students, 5% improved by more than three hundred points, almost 20% improved by more than two hundred fifty points, and the rest improved by approximately one hundred twenty points!

The Princeton Review course is all about practice and time management. The course runs from February to April to prepare students for the April 8th SAT I exam. The course is very flexible because it gives students the choice of attending on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. There are a total of five classes and four workshops, starting from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. on any of the three days above. Each session consists of ninety minutes of verbal and ninety minutes of mathematics practice. That is a total of sixty hours of quality instruction time in which students learn about their strengths and weaknesses based on the first practice exam they take.

A very positive attribute of the course is that the classes are limited to twelve to fourteen students. For those who always complain of overcrowding and not being able to learn because of being stuffed in a room with twenty or thirty other students, here is your chance to take a breather and concentrate on your work.

Last year, two hundred sixty-six students who took the Princeton Review course. More than two-thirds of them improved their SAT scores dramatically. Although there is no way to tell why some improved by three hundred points while others improved by thirty points, the overall result of the course is very positive and obviously helpful to people who need it.

Henry David Thoreau Visits English Classes at BLS

By Margaret Winikates, I
NEWS EDITOR

Wandering through the halls last December, one might have been surprised at the apparition of a nineteenth century man taking a tour of the school. Dressed in period clothing and carrying a walking stick topped by a carved frog, this figure was the spitting image of Henry David Thoreau, the transcendentalist of *Walden* fame. As appropriate as it might seem in a school as old and Latin, he was not, however, a ghost.

Professor Jeffrey Salloway is a teacher at the University of New Hampshire. A BLS graduate (Class of 1959), he is the author of four books and numerous academic articles, and has had a longstanding interest in the life and works of Thoreau. Professor Salloway visited Latin to speak to a few ninth grade English classes under the persona of Thoreau himself. His purpose, he explained, was to, "challenge the students, and remind them of the sense of excellence associated with this school."

Professor Salloway's interest in Thoreau was inspired by a book he won for the Classical Prize during his junior year. The book was a collection of *Walden* and other writings by Thoreau. Later, after spending twenty years in the Midwest, Professor Salloway returned to New England, and showed his family Walden Pond. On this visit, he discovered what he be-

lieves is the unique heritage of those who grow up in New England, and especially those who graduate from Boston Latin.

According to Professor Salloway, New Englanders have an "inquiring, confrontative mind," and a "closer connection with the environment around [them]." As a testament to that closer connection, Professor Salloway has lived in an isolated part of New Hampshire since 1988, having taken to the woods like Henry David Thoreau.

Professor Salloway has many vivid memories of his own years at BLS. Though like today's students he sat in the auditorium and counted light bulbs, he also experienced mandatory drill practice (in uniform!), and, "did not have the pleasure," of attending school with females. His main impressions of the teachers were that they were, "imperious," challenging, and impatient with those who would not commit to excellence. He believes that the success of these teachers is shown by the large num-



Mrs. Kelly greets Professor Salloway
a.k.a. Henry Thoreau
(Photo by A. Perdue)

ber of names of his classmates which turn up in national news.

Professor Salloway believes that he owes much of his development to Boston Latin, and that he, "could not give back enough," to thank the school for all he learned. We are glad that he decided to return to Latin to share with us his experiences and knowledge.

Saturday Success School

By Jenny Chan, IV
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

What do you usually do on Saturday mornings? Many students go back to school. And they return for a reason: Saturday Success School.

Over the years, Saturday Success School has been the place to go when sixties, fivesies, and freshmen need help reaching their academic goals. Students and teachers who take part in this program are on the third floor of Boston Latin School by 9:00 a.m. Light refreshments are served just in case anyone forgets to get the boost of energy essential for tackling math problems and decoding Latin stories. As the day progresses, students and tutors can be seen working hard to meet goals that have been set for their sessions. The tutor signs the progress logs in the student's folders so that the director of the program, Karen "Mrs. Mac" McInnis, can track students' development. The students leave at noon.

Saturday School is divided into three one-hour-long periods. Periods are shortened to forty-five minutes for special occasions, such as when guest speakers come to share their life experiences. Students choose three classes in which there is room for improvement. Students are encouraged to bring textbooks for their subjects and any homework or tests to show their tutors. Each classroom has a lead tutor who is in charge of pairing up students to tutors, as well as offering assistance to students when there is a

shortage of tutors.

At least two days a week, students are required to attend after school tutoring, where upperclassmen are ready to help them complete homework assignments or prepare for those vital exams. Both students and tutors benefit from the after school program.

"Tutoring lets me share the knowledge I have with other students," said one tutor. "It even helps me review all the things I have learned."

This year, a new director was appointed for the tutoring program. Karen McInnis, a former student at Boston Latin, is succeeding Catherine Chiu as the supervisor of Saturday Success School and After School Tutoring. Her job is to organize student files and to keep the program in order. A friendly relationship with the students and staff of the program has made her a favorite among program participants.

Said a three-year student from the program, "She seems to be doing an excellent job. She is running the Saturday Success School with great organization and other students look like they are benefiting from the help given here."

As its name implies, Saturday Success School has helped many accomplish their dream of being a good student. Saturday School is no longer accepting students because half the year is over, but all students who seek academic assistance are free to attend After School Tutoring in room 134.

First Things FIRST: It's All About Students

By Seda Sean, II & My Dzi Le, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

January 9, 2000 launched the six-week preparation for the forthcoming March/April competition of FIRST Robotics. The competition is a division of FIRST, an organization that seeks to increase high school students' interest in science and technology. Each year, the rules of the game change in order to challenge the unshackled imagination of the student participants. During the strenuous six weeks, teams design and construct a robot, and members pull together to complete the lesser-publicized projects of the team.

NU-TRONS is the team comprised of Northeastern University, BLS, Brookline High, and Milton Academy. At the moment, there are about eighty members on the team. The high school students work alongside NU engineering students and engineers from the sponsor company, Textron Systems. For members not interested in constructing the robot, there are other sub-teams they may join. The animation team makes a thirty-second animation of the robot using Autodesk 3-D Studio Max and enters it into a contest. The journalism team works on their project for the Chairman's Award, the most coveted award in the competition. They also plan ways to promote the team. The web team designs

the team's web page (www.nu-trons.com). Erin Reynolds (III) and Dieu Nguyen (II) are the BLS representatives on the FAIHM (FIRST Autodesk Institute for Women and Technology Hewlett-Packard MIT) team, a subdivision of FIRST designed to encourage more women in the field of engineering. In addition to the aforementioned groups, there are also strategy and management teams.

Because supporting such a program is quite expensive, each of the participating schools has given donations in addition to those from Textron Systems. This year's goal is to raise approximately \$45,000 to pay for the trip to Epcot in April. The fundraising team will be hosting a benefit on either March 2 at 7:00 p.m. on the NU campus. Both college and high school students have graciously volunteered to auction off their time. The tasks they have volunteered to perform include babysitting, data entry, designing Web pages, cooking a delicious Mediterranean dinner, and doing almost any other task requested. There will also be a bake sale and raffles at the beginning of the evening. Parents, teachers, and students are invited to attend.

For further information concerning the team or the auction, contact Mr. Southwick in room 135.

Join FIRST now and share the experience!

Sixies' Holiday Spirit in Service Project

By Eugene Kreydin, II
STAFF WRITER

This year, Class VI is a lot like Class I: it's special. For 366 years, seniors have been the kings and queens of BLS, but in some ways, sixies these days have an even sweeter life than that of the upperclassmen. They don't have to worry about college, rank, scholarships, graduation, and every other thing that constantly gnaws at a senior's mind. The sixies can even compete with the seniors' third-floor bragging rights — now they have an entire building, the Annex, all to themselves. The atmosphere apparently created by this separation has certainly done well for the youngest students in our school — they seem more lively and more active outside of school than the rest of us are.

Although large-scale volunteering has been generally left to older students much of the history of the school, the sixies started a new tradition this winter when they offered their service to a nearby day-care center, wrapping up this activity with a huge gift drive.

It all started a few months ago, when seventh-grade home room representatives brought up the idea of volunteering during the school year. The representatives and Annex Teacher-In-Charge Ms. Daniels decided that one of the three sixie clusters, Cluster C, would go over to the Ruggles Gildday Day Care Center in December to entertain

the youngsters. About two weeks before the holidays, the seventh-graders spent two periods delighting the children at Ruggles Gildday. Said Ms. Daniels, "[The sixies] have been great. They played around with the daycare kids, they read aloud to them, and it's been generally exciting."

But the completion of this project was not the end of volunteering. The supervisors who came to Ruggles Gildday with the sixies were told that any gifts for the needy children in the day care would be greatly appreciated. And so the sixie holiday gift drive was begun. The day care center needed about eighty gifts for its charges, but with the help of parents, over a hundred books, toys, and items of clothing were collected during the gift drive. Each gift was individually wrapped, signed, and prepared for delivery by Cluster B sixies after school. It was unanimously decided that the remainder of the gifts would go to a nearby Latino charity that was recently robbed.

The students from Cluster A completed the final stage of this project. They delivered the individual gifts to the children in the day-care, and again read and entertained the kids.

Although the Project is now complete, something else is brewing deep in the Class VI home room government. Sixie volunteering is far from over: our youngest class is planning another event for the near future, one that will certainly be no less successful than the holidays project.

Diversity Among Israeli Jews

By Lev Grossman-Spivack, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many people think that the only issue involving Israel is the never-ending Arab-Israeli conflict. However, there are many other mystifying dilemmas involving the little country on other side of the world. Here in America, people who read the newspaper see only the unimportant peace process. Is that all there is to this mysterious place? The fact is, there is a great tension between the Orthodox community (religious Jews) and the non-religious communities, which receives almost no attention from the American media.

This summer I had the pleasure of visiting Israel, and I realized that there is much more to this country than the media portrays. I took part in a fascinating trip called Teens for Tzedek, which means Teens for Social Justice. The program took place about twenty minutes outside of Haifa, Boston's Israeli sister city, on the northern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. There were six American Jews in the program, two Russian Jews, two Moroccan Jews, six teens from all around the Haifa area, and four Ethiopian Jews. It was an amazing feeling to get out of the van after an endless ride from the airport to Tel Aviv to meet the beaming smile of a fellow yarmulke-wearing Jew who happened to be Ethiopian.

Ethiopian Jews have been making Aliyah, or pilgrimages, to Israel since the late 1970's, when the first brave souls landed in Israel with only one thing in common with the native Israelis: their Jewish heritage. However, as everyone soon found out, there were still differences. On the whole, Ethiopian Jews are much more observant and strict about their religious practices. They followed the rules of the Torah (the Old Testament) exactly as they were written, with no personal interpretation. However, after learning a little about these seemingly different people and their foreign customs, the

native Israelis realized that the Ethiopian Jewish community took Judaism very seriously.

However, just as America developed problems when immigrants came to this country, Israel, too, had to deal with certain issues. For example, in Ethiopia, everyone lived in a close-knit community where the elders of the village received the utmost respect. The oldest members of the tribe were given the highest honor and reverence, something that is almost unimaginable here in the US. However, when Ethiopian families immigrated to Israel, the strong family structure they depended on in their native land slowly began to disintegrate. Why? How is it possible for children to truly feel respect and admiration for their parents and grandparents when the latter two continually stumble over the new language and cannot support the family by working? When Ethiopian families came to Israel, the adults as well as the children knew only traditional Hebrew and could barely communicate with the Israelis. It was the younger generation that blended into Israeli culture almost immediately, getting accustomed to the language, the customs, and the modern lifestyle.

So where does that leave the older generation? Many of the Ethiopian senior citizens are extremely depressed, inactive, and lonely. The roles of the elders and children in the Ethiopian family have been completely reversed. The Ethiopian children are their parents' communication with the Israeli world. Although this is a rather depressing circumstance, the adult Ethiopian community is not being ignored. Night schools that teach Hebrew have been established, many of which are free not only for Ethiopian immigrants, but for all immigrants. This may not be the silver bullet for giving the Ethiopian community equal opportunity in Israel, but it is a start.

AOL.COM

AOL-Time Warner Merger

By Mark Yuen, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 17, 2000, history was made when America Online and Time Warner proposed the largest merger ever in the US. America Online (AOL), has transformed into one of the most formidable Internet service providers on the market —formidable in its fame, the vast number of members, as well as its value on Wall Street. Having moved on from a state of disarray, AOL has grown to include several other Internet service companies such as Netscape, CompuServe, and Instant Messenger.

Time Warner, however, is quite the opposite of AOL. Time, Inc. was founded more than seventy-five years ago. Time has a plethora of media properties. Among these are Warner Bros. Pictures, New Line Cinema, Castle Rock, Warner Bros. Music Group, Warner Bros. Television (WB), HBO, TNT, CNN, and the Cartoon Network. Time Warner's properties also include thirty-three magazines: Time, People, Life, Fortune, and Sports Illustrated, to name a few. Its past attempts to keep up with the latest advances in e-commerce and the Internet have been, to say the least, feeble.

So how can an Internet-based company like AOL buy a multimedia company like Time Warner? That seems comparable to an office superstore buying a fast food chain. Upon closer examination, the brilliance of forming a conglomerate consisting of AOL and Time Warner becomes evident.

Time Warner owns many cable television networks, and thus has control over many cable lines. With these cable lines, AOL can make Internet access much faster. AOL can also make television more interactive. With AOL, the average consumer can download music from WB artists; there is also great potential with AOL's on-line radio station. Some of Time Warner's publications could be made available on-line. None of AOL's services or the content of Time Warner's publications would change; the only difference would be that everything will become faster and more accessible.

Finally, if that were not enough, AOL patrons currently number twenty million, with a new member signing on every three seconds; Time Warner's magazine publications reach ninety-nine million adults, and Time Warner cable customers total thirteen million.

One Senator's Crusade

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

After a Clinton presidency marred by scandal and mistrust, the nation is looking for a president that can restore integrity to the White House. There is no candidate better equipped to do this than Arizona Senator John McCain.

In a time where the threats of nuclear warfare and terrorist attacks always abound, the nation needs a president who has a strong military background and is committed to peace. It would be impossible to find a candidate more prepared to lead the military than Senator McCain. As a Navy pilot and POW during the Vietnam Conflict, he experienced the horrors of war firsthand. McCain's grandfather and father were both four-star admirals in the Navy. John McCain III comes from a family that served its country proudly and he has shown his true sense of duty, integrity, and honor during his time as a POW. The Vietnamese offered to release McCain in order to embarrass the US after realizing his father was a top commander. Acting upon honor and a refusal

to leave his fellow POWs, McCain rejected their offer and was held and tortured for five and a half years.

There is a sharp contrast between the tax plan of McCain and his leading Republican competition, Texas Governor George W. Bush. On the surface, it seems that Bush's plan of returning roughly \$450 million to taxpayers dwarfs McCain's proposal of returning about \$235 million. When one looks deeper, though, it is easy to see that McCain's plan is actually the better of the two. All one has to do is look at to whom the tax relief would go. Bush would return the majority of the money to the wealthy. McCain's plan returns the majority of the money to middle-class, hard-working Americans. McCain also has further plans to spell tax relief. He wants to extend the number of taxpayers eligible for the lowest 15% tax bracket. He wants to eliminate the penalty that increases taxes for couples who get married. The Senator also would slash the gift and estate tax that penalizes people from passing on the

MCCAIN
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Abstinence Graffiti Makes Its Mark

By Zoe Liou, I
STAFF WRITER

Over the years, the graffiti in the girls' bathrooms at BLS has covered a wide range of topics and genres. The Sharpie scrawlings on our dingy walls have included everything from typical high school gossip to social commentary, lyric poetry, ethnic pride slogans ("I ♥ Lithuania!"), detailed political manifestos, and esoteric scientific messages ("Respiration Saves!").

Even the most jaded of graffiti-readers, however, were surprised in early January when the girls' lavatory in the senior hallway was emblazoned with graffiti encouraging abstinence. "Sex is for marriage," proclaimed the walls, the stalls and even the soap and paper towel dispensers. Messages in dark black ink urged girls to "Give your husband something pure." Soon after, a second floor girls' bathroom was covered with similar abstinence graffiti and musings of a more overtly religious tone. "Doing good things won't get you into heaven," read one. According to another message, "God's last name isn't DAMN!" Writings on the door of one stall announced earnestly, "You need Jesus! Try him and feel the difference." The graffiti in both bathrooms appeared to be written by the same person.

This latest development in BLS bathroom graffiti drew heated comments from both the student body and the administration. Numerous and often vehem-

ent responses appeared in quick succession, scribbled on the lavatory walls in indelible ink. "Don't you have anything better to do?" asked one. "Have you ever heard of a place called *church*? Okay...that's where this stuff belongs!" read another. Anarchy symbols and theological retorts - "What if Jesus doesn't exist?" - appeared on mirrors. In pencil, in highlighter, and even once in lipstick, various students offered their impudent and often obscene commentaries on the Abstinence Graffiti Artist's work. The indignance of the student body was almost palpable. "She's entitled to her opinion," said one junior, speaking of the author of the graffiti, "but I wish she would keep it to herself."

The administration, which does not look kindly upon vandalism, was not amused by any of the graffiti. Earlier this year, two student graffiti-writers were caught and dealt with. The school fully cooperates with the city ordinance which declares all "painting, marking, etc., of any buildings by anyone, regardless of age is illegal." The city has established a fine of \$300 for graffiti, and BLS' attitude toward those who deface school property is one of vigilance and stern disapproval. "Graffiti and vandalism come from people who have no respect for the school, for themselves, or for their schoolmates," said Assistant Head Master Mr. Flynn.

The graffiti was recently removed from the girls' bathrooms, but its shadow remains.

Presidential Debate to be held in Boston

Wajiha Ahmed, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On October 11, 1960 in Chicago, for the first time on live television, America witnessed the Kennedy-Nixon debates, one of the most exciting and interesting debates of all time. This debate changed politics forever. This October, the first series of presidential debates will take place in our very own state of Massachusetts. The first debate will be held at the JFK library, which will co-host the debate with UMASS-Boston. Although it probably

will not be as riveting as the Kennedy-Nixon debates, it should be interesting.

This is the first time that Boston, a city that has been the birthplace of many great debaters, will be home to such a coveted debate. Twelve cities were in competition to host the three debates: Boston, Salem, (N.C.), and St. Louis were selected. The fact that the first debate will take place in the most

Democratic city in the country, and in a place dedicated to a Democratic president, could be of advantage to the Democrat who is nominated, whoever that happens to be.

A city needs to raise \$550,000 to be able to host this event. This was achieved by politicians and business people in Boston, including Paul Kirk, the chairman of JFK library's board.

The \$550,000 is a trivial amount if one considers the fact that these debates could bring up to \$2.5 million to the economy of Boston, by filling hotel rooms, publishing campaign ads, etc. The decision by the non-

partisan Commission on Presidential debates in Washington was welcomed by the political leaders of Boston, who were disappointed when we did not get to host the Democratic National Convention. Senator Edward Kennedy stated, "No city is stronger in history or politics at its best than Boston. We're proud that Boston will be the lead-off city for these all-important presidential debates."



Nixon-Kennedy debate, 1960
(Photo source: www.corbis.com)

Putin Acting President of Russia

By Lydia Brooks, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Before Russians could celebrate the coming of a new year, they first had to accept that their very capricious president, Boris Yeltsin, was leaving them. Yeltsin officially announced his resignation through a televised announcement on New Year's Eve, confirming rumors of his pending withdrawal from office. The next face many saw on their television screens was that of Acting President Vladimir Putin.

Media sources state that this stoic man has a powerful background with numerous leadership positions. According to the BBC News, Putin spent a great part of his career, "working for the Soviet security service and as a spy in Germany." ABC News reports that the 47-year-old Putin, named Russian president in August of 1999, was the Head of the Federal Security Service and Secretary of the Presidential Security Council. All of these accomplishments, despite his meager beginnings as a Soviet spy during the Cold War, highlight his interest

in security affairs.

Belying his future plans, however, Putin graduated from law school in 1975 and proceeded to work for the KGB's intelligence department in Germany. (The KGB is the Russian Secret Service.) When Putin saw the Soviet Union crumbling quickly, he left and embarked on his political career.



Vladimir Putin, new Russian President
(Photo source: www.corbis.com)

former position dealing with security at the Kremlin, the government's "operations center" in Moscow.

As acting and potential permanent president, Putin plans to exercise his background in security council by, as he stated, "rebuilding Russia's security services, which were greatly weakened with the breakup of the Soviet Union."

This was in 1990. Some say that ten years of political experience is not sufficient for the position of President. But since then, Putin has distinguished himself and built a good reputation for serving the people: he worked with St. Petersburg's local government and later became vice mayor, and by March 1998, he returned to a

Potential for Peace in Syria and Israel

By Alexi Nowell, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the first time in over six years, leaders from Syria and Israel have decided to put animosities aside long enough to sit at a table with each other. The subject? Peace. Peace between neighbors, but more importantly, possibly the start of peace throughout the Middle East.

Syria and Israel have not had peace talks since 1993, when they were ended due to "irreconcilable differences." These differences have not changed, but now both countries are willing to take a look at the situation to see if there are any ways around these difficulties.

The main hindrance for both countries in the current round of talks is the issue of the Golan Heights. This plateau, which is in the possession of Israel at the moment, gives a commanding view of the Syria border and any military activities within.

The Golan Heights were captured by Israel from Syria during the Six Day War in 1967. It is important not only for its strategic location, but also because of its water: the Golan Heights provides

roughly one-third of Israel's water supply.

Syria feels that the Heights were taken from them in a way that was unjustified, and that the land should be returned. In theory, Israelis have agreed to move their military forces back to a territorial line established just before the Six Day War. What they ask in return is an assurance that they will continue to have unlimited access to the water of the Heights, an early warning military station at the base of the Heights, and official relations with Syria (the establishment of embassies in both countries). Syrians have agreed to Israel's water rights, but fully rejects the latter two requests, feeling that a sense of trust must be established before the countries can create official political relations with each other.

These differences have led to a stall in the negotiations, but each country is feeling pressure from the world as a whole to resume the talks. If they continue, and if these two countries are able to come up with a resolution, it could be the beginning of a whole new world in the Middle East.

This article was brought to you by War 101, which meets in 115 every Tuesday. Anyone interested in attending the meetings is welcome.

Forum

GrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrR

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

When the story of Elian Gonzalez was first brought to the attention of Americans, many of their first reactions were to send the boy home to his father. After all, his father is his guardian and he has the right bring his son up however he chooses. Although this may seem like a black and white case, one must look further into the story to see whose rights are actually being violated by sending Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba.

First, we must stop focusing on the rights of Elian's father, Juan Miguel. Juan Miguel does not live in a democracy. He lives in a totalitarian communist regime. In Cuba, it is a crime to speak out against the state. For Juan Miguel to say that he would prefer his son to stay in the United States, away from him, would send a very strong anti-Cuba message, one which would land Juan Miguel in jail, away from his wife and child. Because of this lack of free speech, we cannot be aware of the father's real position. There are many substantial rumors circulating that Juan Miguel knew of his wife's flight and supported it. Not surprisingly, this information is being denied by the Cuban government. In addition to this, Castro will not even allow the father, who supposedly wants to bring his son back to Cuba, to come to the United States to retrieve his son. Is it possible that Castro fears that this man may not return?

If we could know and trust the father's real position on his son's situation, we could then examine the rights of Juan Miguel. We would then have to ask ourselves, "Should a parent be allowed to choose a life without freedom for his child?" The posed question sounds absurd; of course they should not be allowed to make that decision, it obviously does not have the child's best interests at heart. Yet this is essentially what the United States would be doing if it decides that Elian Gonzalez should be sent back to the totalitarian state of Cuba.

Yet how does one know just how bad the situation in Cuba really is? How can Americans compare and decided which country could raise Elian with his best interests at heart? They cannot. However, Cuban refugees now living in the United States and Cuban-Americans are able to compare and decide which kind of state would have Elian's interests at heart. In Miami, 90% of Cuban-Americans (many of whom have been in, or know someone who has been in, a situation such as Elian and his mother) feel that Elian should remain in the United States. This huge percentage says a great deal about how people who have experienced life in Cuba first or second hand feel about a life in Cuba versus a life in America.

Also, one must not forget the feelings of Elian's own mother about her son's future. Elizabet Gonzalez believed so strongly in a future for her son in America that she was willing to risk losing her life for that chance at freedom for her son. Since Castro came to power forty years ago, tens of thousands of Cubans have taken the same risks as Elizabet Gonzalez to find freedom in America. There was a reason that she risked her life to bring her son to the United States, and if she had not met with tragedy on the voyage here, her dream to see her son grow up with his due rights and freedoms would not be in question today.

Elian's mother died trying to make this dream come true for her son. Should her death be in vain? Should we demonstrate by our actions that a parent's right to choose should take precedent over a child's right to freedom? Should we send a young boy back to a country where he will lose so many of the freedoms that we call inalienable in the United States? The answer to all these questions is no. Let Elian Gonzalez remain in the United States.

Should Elian Gonzalez be returned to Cuba?



FILE PHOTO

Elian Gonzalez should be sent home. I don't think I can be any more blunt about it. Ever since this Cuban boy was stranded here in the U.S., there has been an enormous controversy about whether he should be sent back to Cuba or be kept here in America. I honestly cannot understand how this is a difficult issue. He should be sent home.

I do not like Fidel Castro. I do not like his totalitarian regime in Cuba. That having been said, this boy is Cuban. Even more importantly, his father is still in Cuba. This boy is a minor. His father is his legal guardian. How can a nation even think about just taking a child from his parent? The government should never be able to take a child from his parent, except in cases of abuse and such. Even more importantly, the U.S. government isn't even his own national government. The government should stay out of this family matter.

I don't care if Elian wants to stay. There has been talk that he wants to stay in Florida with his American relatives. Frankly, any little boy would want to stay here if he could be brought to Disney World all the time like Elian has been and right after the Christmas season where he received many gifts. Elian simply doesn't know any better.

This whole episode has made me even more upset with President Clinton. His lack of leadership is showing through here. All he has to do is pick up the phone, call the INS, and tell them to send Elian home. Instead, he is playing this political game with Castro. This boy has been thrust onto center stage as another example of how the U.S. and Cuba hate one another. This is unjust and there should be more outcry over this. Politics should be set aside here and what is right should be done. A strong leader would not let this continue. The boy would have already been sent home.

Is the boy better off in the United States or in Cuba? To be honest, I think it is fairly obvious he would be better off here. The United States is the richest nation in the world. He would be allowed to flourish in a democracy as opposed to a totalitarian system. That having been said, though, it should not matter what I think or what anyone thinks about that, especially the U.S. government. The only opinion that matters here is what Elian's father thinks. The father has said publicly to send him back to Cuba, therefore, he should be sent back immediately. There is a part of me that wonders if the father maybe doesn't want him back and has been told to call for his return by the Castro government. That, however, is highly unlikely, and, unless it is found to be true, is not a part of the issue. Besides, the overriding principle anyway is that the U.S. government cannot overstep the father's desire to have him back no matter if his desire is sincere or not. They legally cannot do that.

I understand those who feel Elian should stay because his mother obviously wanted him to be in the U.S. It is unfortunate that his mother died before reaching the U.S. If the mother was still alive, then I would say let her decide his fate. Now, however, the authority comes down to Elain's father, the legal guardian. It is up to him to decide where Elian should be, and that he wants his son sent back to Cuba.

The U.S. government does not have the right to take this child from his father. Send the boy home. The government needs to put politics aside and just return him to his father. This ordeal threatens the sacredness of the entire family institution. Every day that goes by with Elian in America should be an insult to parents everywhere and is an egregious overstepping of power by our government.

Forum Question:
Should Elian Gonzalez be returned to Cuba?



Photo by J. Wong

Yes, he belongs in his own country and family. But the overriding and most important fact is he belongs with his father.
-Natalia Trujillo, I



Photo by J. Wong

No, his mother wanted him to have the opportunity to be in America and she risked her life to get him here.
-Sarita Frattaroli, II



Photo by J. Wong

No, he should stay in America if his mother wanted him so badly to get here. He shouldn't be sent back to Cuba.
-Jackie Coffey, III



Photo by J. Wong

Yes, the law and treatises the US signed clearly states that he should be sent home.
-Long Jie Dai, IV



Photo by J. Wong

Yes, send him back to Cuba. It's where his family is, it's where he was born, that's where he belongs.
-Katie Donahue, V



Photo by N. Brown

To be honest, I'm not sure. I think someone should ask Elian how he feels.
-Marah Brown, VI

Selections from the Argo Mail Bag



FILE PHOTO

Dear Editor:

The recent article by Rose Costello ("Race Must Be Better Addressed at BLS") has greatly interested me. If a faculty member may do so, I should like to forward this brief response.

Ms. Costello notes that "through some mysterious subconscious decision, the [BLS] students have divided themselves by race, sticking to their own kind." In the lunch room, for example, "the students have divided themselves almost perfectly into social circles based on racial lines." That decision may indeed be subconscious, but perhaps it is not so mysterious at all.

Is the tendency to prefer one's own kind really the evil we now call racism? Isn't it rather a natu-

ral, universal, ancient instinct, observable in all the world's creatures, man included? Aristotle formulated this observation into a political philosophy. Man is by nature inclined to form social associations, he asserted, beginning with the family. As the nuclear family extends to form a clan, a tribe, a community, a city, a race, the loyalties and affections of all the members thereof are primarily directed to just those associations. Our identities as individuals are obtained by virtue of the associations to which we belong. From them we derive our customs, our habits, our values and assumptions which guide us through life.

It is no surprise, therefore, that most people are most comfortable with their own kind, which may vary in any circumstance. At BLS, for example, Asian students may quite normally feel more comfortable among other Asian students than they would with, say, black students. And even that group "Asian" may, again quite normally, divide itself into students of Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, and other backgrounds. On the other hand, at a city-wide sports event wouldn't BLS students, of whatever ethnic origin, prefer each other's company to that of students from other schools? In other words, we all cherish several loyalties simultaneously; but that of ethnicity is a very deeply-rooted

one, and by no means is it an evil one. It has its origin, if not at the very dawn of complex life on this planet, then certainly in the remotest beginnings of human society and should be respected.

An artificial breaking down of these barriers, which insistently form themselves by the strong compulsion of nature, is not only not needed, but positively harmful, for it is within those closer groups, naturally formed, that we build strength, shape identity, develop culture, achieve good works. Should ephemeral political ideology have more force than the tremendous impulse of nature, of hundreds of thousands of years of human culture? If in the name of equality we forcibly destroy those primary associations of racial ethnicity, then what is to preserve and protect other associations, such as religious affiliation, political party, trade union, or any other private and personal loyalty?

In short I would say: let us observe real human instinct and real human action, and let us trust and honor them. Let us not prefer abstract social theories to the primordial motives of nature.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cohee, Classics

Another Look at the Summer Reading Lists

By Mary Colvario
ENGLISH DEPT. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The closing of school today, January 26, 2000, has given me the chance to respond to Chris Fong's article, "Fix Summer Reading List Now!" I have been wanting to respond to Chris's article for several weeks, but other responsibilities have prevented me from completing such a task. I happily give up a few hours of my snow day to write this letter to the *Argo*.

Chris should have come to interview me about the Summer Reading List before he wrote "Fix Summer Reading List Now!" for the December *Argo*. If he had, his article might have been more accurate and more balanced, and I assume any BLS contributing writer constantly seeks those two admirable traits: accuracy and balance. Even if one is writing an editorial, such persuasive essays should be grounded in substantial factual evidence, and sources of information should be cited. For example, Chris quotes only one unidentified parent who makes a suggestion to "allow students to pick several books of their own choice and several others from a constantly monitored list [which] will allow the students to suffer less." Actually, a few years ago the English Department tried this very idea for two summers and eventually discarded it, after we found that many students were turning in reports on particularly silly, simple, negligible books and thereby wasting classroom time in September. Certainly, there's nothing wrong with reading silly, simple, negligible books at times, but students don't need to take notes on them or write essays about them in September.

If Chris had interviewed other parents, he might have discovered that some parents are rather delighted that their children are encouraged to read. I suspect he could have found a Boston Latin School parent or two or three or

four who recognize the value of instilling in their children a life-long love of reading. If Chris had recognized some value to the opposing side, he could have made his argument stronger since showing respect for the opposing view makes any argument more thoughtful, more fair, more convincing.

Of course, we all agree that, after a long, rigorous school year on Avenue Louis Pasteur, we long for the relaxation that only languorous summer moments can seemingly provide. We delight in spending more time with our friends during those wonderful ten weeks that stretch before us in July and August, and we plan a myriad of activities that are definitely neither intellectual nor scholarly. Readily admitting how sacrosanct the joys of summer are, however, it's hard to see how reading five books can ruin whatever our other plans might be. Even if one is not a teacher of English, that oddity who has been known to read five books in one summer week, with a little planning any Boston Latin School student can actually enjoy summer reading.

Chris's comment about students not being willing "to read books with which they are not familiar" is a valid one (although I'm surprised that a member of Class II is making it). For several years after doing a serious revision of the Summer Reading Lists in 1996, the English Department has felt a need to help students gain familiarity with the many, many titles that are offered them. Of course, we know this good idea will take time, and we also knew how little extra time we all generally have.

Beginning three years ago, the English Department started to annotate its Summer Reading Lists thanks to the generous donation of time from a parent, Mrs. Judith Fairbrother. Beginning with Class III in 1998 and continuing with Class II in 1999, Mrs. Fairbrother is currently working on annotating the list for students entering Class I. Mrs.

Fairbrother's efforts in 1998 made it possible for Chris and other entering-Class III students to know that Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was about a "fun loving mental patient [who] struggles for the hearts of the patients against the Big Nurse." They also were able to read descriptions of the eighty other titles that were available to them including many particularly popular authors and titles, e.g., J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, Joanne Greenberg's *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*, Isaac Asimov's *Nemesis*, Ntozake Shange's *Betsey Brown*, Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. During the summer of 1999, Chris and other students entering Class II could discover that Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* is "often considered the first modern mystery" and that "it begins with the theft of a yellow diamond"; they also were able to read descriptions of over seventy titles including a variety of titles and interests, e.g., Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, Gish Jen's *A Typical American*, Barbara Tuchman's *The March of Folly*. The fact that Chris made no mention of these annotations and instead claims that "most of the books are unfamiliar" and that "the current list consists only of titles of books and does nothing for [students] or their education" weakens his editorial stance because it is so easily disproven.

In addition to Mrs. Fairbrother's efforts, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Walter are currently annotating the Class VI list; Mr. Waldron and Ms. Middleton, Class IV; Mr. Regan is working on Class V. We hope these efforts will be finalized by the time the Summer Reading Lists are distributed in May, 2000.

Chris further states very strongly that "until student suggestions are reviewed and taken into consideration, summer reading will never be a high priority in the academic lives of stu-

dents." Chris needs to check his facts. During my tenure as English Department Head, I have often received suggestions from students and added titles to the list. Other teachers routinely ask their students for suggestions and often—not always—those titles are added. I do not remember that Chris Fong ever approached me about adding any titles, and I assume he would have included such an anecdote in his article if indeed he had found me unwilling to listen to his suggestions.

Another change Chris recommended is that students should have a place to recommend or condemn each book. Since the prescribed form already asks the student for his opinion, I'm not entirely sure what this suggestion means. As a classroom teacher as well as a department head, I routinely look at student comments and adjust my recommendations for the Summer Reading Lists.

Even though I wish the December article had been a more successful piece of journalism, I do thank Chris Fong for calling attention to the Summer Reading Lists. It has given me the opportunity to reflect on this practice of the English Department, and self-evaluation is always valuable. Of course, we know that no list is perfect, but we teachers in the English Department keep working on the Summer Reading Lists to help students develop a life-long habit of reading.

Finally, since humor also can be used to some advantage in persuasive argument, I will end with a story that some might find vaguely amusing, perhaps enough to bring a slight moue to their lips. Several years ago, I received the first of several phone calls from BLS graduates asking that I send them the current Summer Reading Lists. Looking for titles that they knew would be valuable, these men and women turned to their Alma Mater for such help. Could it be that some time in the not-so-distant future, Chris Fong and others might consider doing the same thing?

Dispelling the Myth of the “Model Minority”

By Justina Wong, I
FORUM EDITOR

There is a common stereotype that permeates our society, one that has been faced by countless individuals not only in Boston, but across America. This prevalent stereotype of the many that still continue to exist in today’s society is the of the Asian-American. For as long as one can remember, Asian Americans have been branded with the term “the model minority.” This tag labels Asians as being typically quiet, hard-working, complacent, and of course, smart. There have been many individuals, including myself, who have been faced with this stereotype. Psychologically, this unconsciously pressures Asian students to live up to this stereotype. But even outweighing this social pressure, most Asians have the added burden of cultural pressure. The majority of Asians in Boston and the US are immigrants—immigrants, who have left behind their status and their jobs such as teachers, nurses, and professionals to scrub floors or wash dishes in restaurants here for the rest of their years. What on earth would compel them to give up their lives and families in their own land to come and work at low-paying jobs, squeezed into small homes? They have rationalized it as a sacrifice of the greatest sort—for their children and their future. With this in mind, most first generation American-born Asians realize that they have to succeed to make their parents proud and fulfill their hopes for the future. Not for pity, this is but to merely explain and educate about many students’ backgrounds and the reason behind their drive to succeed. This is not necessarily the case for every Asian, but according to Peter Kiang, the Associate Professor of Asian-American Studies at UMASS-Boston, “this is a very typical story.”

To my shock and own ignorance, on February 10th at the Young Leaders of Color meeting, Kiang explained the background to Asian-American history—a history of which I have been practically oblivious to thus far. The “model minority” title was not created by Asians, but slapped onto them. Where did it come from? How has it been fostered by the media? According to Kiang and researchers at the University of California at Berkeley, this myth roots back to an article, U.S. News and Report’s “Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S.”, from December 26, 1966. Prior to this article, LIFE’s photo essay in 1951 painted a “docile and non-threatening” image of Asians studying hard in school. About a decade later, U.S. News and Report’s article lauded Chinese-Americans for their successful assimilation after overcoming hardships and injustices and showed how productive, hard-working, and well-adjusted Chinese have become. This article rose amidst violence and hatred. In 1967 and 1968, riots broke out across the nation in Boston, Chicago, L.A., and Detroit because of African-Americans protesting the fact that their promise of equality had been unfulfilled. In that “moment,” Asian-Americans as the model minority were raised as a good example of minorities succeeding, not fighting. Thus, this “model minority” title was not given as accolades to Asians, but rather something to wear unwillingly. According to Kiang, “Asians were the success story. Keep in mind, Asians did not write this article, they did not edit it, they did not own the newspaper to print it. They were used to undercut the militant struggles of African-Americans.”

As time progressed, this image of Asians was continued through the media such as Newsweek’s “Outwhiting the Whites.” There was also an article in the “Saturday Evening Post” praising the Chinese cultural upbringing. Basically, Asians were stereotyped as always studying hard and being upright citizens, pursuing that ever-present, craved “American Dream.”

As a new wave of immigrants arrived in the 1970s and 1980s, this stereotype was immediately transposed onto these Asians, who were predominantly refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. They had no personal, direct association with this stereotype. However, a new negative sentiment arose in society, in the media, and in Boston: the violent “gang” image. Noted by the UC Berkeley, this negative stereotype is also perpetuated in the media, such as “by commission in Hollywood films like Raiders of the Lost Ark, Sixteen Candles, and Year of the Dragon where stereotypes of Asians as criminals, aliens, and brutes abound...[and] stir up anti-Asian fears and anxieties.” To most Americans, Asians have been perceived as a “threat,” “dangerous,” and “foreigners,” which is natural because of the history like Exclusion Acts, “Red” China, Japanese Internment, and the Vietnam Conflict. After various fights including those involving Boston Latin, it is easy to jump to an assumption that the word “Asian” can prompt a translation to gang and violence.

Academically, the consequence on Asian-Americans is a reason to end affirmative action for the most part. For example, at the end of the last year, the College Board reclassified Asians as non-minorities because of high scores and performance, lumping them together with Caucasians. These statistics hide data since it is dangerous to lump together so diverse and broad an ethnic group and produce the results as a whole. For example, “Asian” encompasses more than just one ethnic group, in fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, nineteen ethnic groups. Therefore, using statistics, the high performing groups hide the failing, struggling groups. The assumption that Asians are prospering economically is also a misconception. In Boston, reported by the 1990 Census, the average income of Asians is \$9,486. Other incomes in comparison are of Blacks (\$10,420), Latinos (\$8,364), Native Americans (\$9,319), and Whites (\$18,939). Like any other racial group, Asians have a broad range of incomes. Not to mention, there is a significant difference between urban and suburban Asians such as in test scores, support in school, and support at home. Socially, this model minority stereotype can alienate Asian students and provoke harassing and racist remarks.

I bring this issue up not to inflame or increase racial tension, but rather to dispel a popular myth. When I told a fellow classmate that I would be attending a Young Leaders of Color meeting to hear about Asian issues, she snorted with disgust, “What problems do you people have?” Other classmates also remarked similarly. Bitter remarks as such these compel me to be discouraged and upset that stereotypes are, have been, and probably always will be applied to fellow Asians and myself. In answer to the question if time will eradicate this stereotype and discrimination, Kiang responded, “Absolutely not. What can African-Americans tell you about time? Over hundreds of years of injustice. What can Native Americans tell you? The only way is through action, but for this to happen you need education—Asian-American education, which is not available. There is no comprehensive, systematic education anywhere in the U.S. in grades K-12. You have to wait for college.” Incidents of any kind of racial violence make me fearful not only of hate, but also of ignorance. Misconceptions about all racial groups split people apart when we have so much in common with each other. Kiang ended on the note that, “we can learn from each other.” In such a diverse atmosphere at BLS, we should take advantage of our differences and share our experiences with one another. For some topics, there is truly not an opportunity or possibility for such education at school in a course. We have to educate each other. Education of this sort is fundamental so that we understand one another. As we begin this new millennium, I do hope we can learn so much more about one another, because if we do not do so now, when will we ever learn?

Abridged Outreach Plan for Boston Latin School

By Brian Farncroft, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The following was written in response to an article in the Boston Globe in early December. This article suggested that BLS alumni should spend more money on the young contenders competing for a seat at Latin, rather than on scholarships and the general well-being of the upperclassmen here at Latin. The following qualifies many of the article’s points, while abridging some.

Although there may be some who come from Brighton High and succeed economically, there will always be more from Boston Latin. The fact of the matter is that the majority of these deprived students will not even reach a mindset when they grow older to the point where they feel the slightest bit inclined to give anything back to a society that has seemingly turned its back on them. Certainly, the factors why BHS and other such Boston schools receive

such little alumni support are numerous. Nowadays, education is financial success. Those without a college diploma are at a loss in the work force. Students bred from the poor educational conditions in this city are practically inferior to BLS students in certain aspects. While BLS graduates thank their lucky stars that they were given the opportunity to shine, graduates of other schools, who may or may not have worked as hard if they were at BLS, are simply denied a fair shot at such an esteemed school. Are these students in any position to give back to their high school for any reason? Will they even have anything to give? These schools need help, but it is too late for that now.

As long as BLS remains a school of respect and of educational superiority among all other schools in the city of Boston, it will continue to produce a faithful congregation of alumni. This money is going to the right place, just to the wrong students. We must concentrate on the younger. Nowadays, with the quota gone, only

smart or nurtured minds will make it in to Latin. This cannot be denied. “This year black and Hispanic youngsters constituted only 16% of the incoming class...” Soon, as my classmate Rose Costello pointed out, this percentile will refer to the contents of the entire school. With the quota gone, diversity and equity among the student body is at risk, alumni must open their minds to the precious intellect of the young and always promising. The aspect of Latin school that separates it from all the private schools in the suburbs may be gone forever if the alumni don’t double check exactly where their money should be going. Obviously, no alumnus of BLS is going to be obliged to spend money on a student at X High in Boston who is already a promising bus driver for the MBTA; this is not the solution. Latin School is about education at a higher level, “with a college preparatory curriculum.” Alumni will concentrate on BLS only, and this assertion is justified.

However, any student can learn, no matter what race or class, but factoring in that our public schools obviously

cannot give each student the attention he or she needs, BLS alumni are now responsible. Responsible. BLS alumni are responsible for maintaining the school’s promise and for salvaging its integrity, to which they owe so much. It is necessary to increase the standard of education for minorities, instead of decreasing the standard for acceptance to Latin School. In order to maintain Latin School’s identity of a diverse environment, at which one can achieve academic excellence as well as social knowledge, alumni must support the contenders for seats here. Better financed and more advanced programs for the suffering fifth grade minorities is what is needed. Latin School alumni have a chance to give back to the system that produced them, and at the same time increase the standards of the economically deprived minority intellect. Those who have money to spare can finally give it back to produce excellent students, even if they do not make it into Latin. As long as these programs are conducted properly, we cannot lose. In education, money should be no object.

Early Bird Special

By Andrew Barr, II
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While most of us are being dragged, screaming and clawing, from peaceful slumber, and others are being dragged, coughing and yawning, by noisy public buses, a devout few students can be found atrophying in the BLS cafeteria. The school has maintained, as long as this bleary-eyed scribe can remember, an arcane policy requiring that any student with the nerve to arrive prior to 7:25 remain in the cafeteria until the bell rings, triggering a mass exodus from the bowels of the building each morning.

Much debate has ensued over the last moment of the school day. 2:15? 2:14? 1:54? (Remember 1:54?) This intrepid correspondent says nuts to the whole argument. The least useful half-hour of the day comes right at the beginning, when we are all too close to the clutches of sleep to hear the sound of our precious time dwindling away like sand in an hourglass.

It's not that the cafeteria isn't a great place to be in the mornings. There are opportunities for catching up on homework or studying. Numerous breakfast selections of dubious nutritional and aesthetic value are offered. In addition, uncharacteristic of the school's general philosophy towards this sort of thing, there is time for socializing, an art that is becoming increasingly lost on many of our overworked peers (based on a quick survey of the Mac Lab at around 6:00 PM).

No, my complaint is not with the cafeteria atmosphere. My primary protest is that students are not allowed to do anything else: consult with teachers, do extra work on independent lab projects, or complete make-up tests. Any of these could be done during that half-hour between 7:00 and 7:30. The cafeteria could be left open as a sort of lounge, and the rest of the building could function as usual.

Now, before the Argo receives several hundred letters full of spittle and misspelled words, let me concede that there are security concerns to simply opening up the whole building. Our miracle-working but busy security staff cannot be everywhere at once. But I see at least two dozen teachers every morning on my walk down the stairs to the cafeteria, and during the time I am stuck in the place. Surely they could be in their homerooms to allow students to meet with them, do independent work, or take part in extra-curricular activities.

Logistically, such a plan would take a lot of hard work, plus an interesting interpretation of the BTU contract. But what's to prevent starting homeroom at, say, 7:15? Homeroom is more than just seven extra minutes of sleep for most of us. It's mail call, appeals court, last-chance study hall, and utility period (another blast from the past) all in one. We rush all day; why can't homeroom be relaxed? Perhaps if this tradition is loosened, we can all have the mental and physical energy to uphold the other ones.

Meanwhile, the sunrise crew will continue to be found in the cafeteria, watching the clock and waiting patiently for the bell.

MCCAIN
from page 5

fruits of their labor to their children. Finally, he will provide tax incentives to promote family saving and investment.

John McCain believes in effective, common sense measures to keep firearms away from criminals and children. While he believes in the constitutional right to bear arms, he also supports several efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals such as instant background checks, as well as measures such as trigger locks to prevent children from harming themselves with firearms.

Senator McCain has taken a hard stance on abortion. He's a pro-life candidate. He feels that all people have a right to life, and objects to abortions except in cases of rape, incest, and where the mother's life is threatened by childbearing.

In our booming economy, there has been a lot of talk of what to do with our nation's budget surplus. Senator McCain would devote 62% of the surplus to

The Politics of Ignorance

By Kevin O'Keefe, I
COPY EDITOR

As I sat on my couch, letting more brain cells depreciate in front of the television, I found myself depressed by the belabored coverage of a few mid-western political zealots performing an exaggerated, outdated ritual, which some refer to as the Iowa Caucus. However, once they portrayed a soon-to-be participant in the next day's activities, I was tempted to reach for a belt and the next available staircase. It's not that I have something against Iowans or political activists or anything, it was just one person in particular, one member of the Iowa Caucus to whom the news chose to give a minute of airtime. After cycling through the usual senior citizens, middle-aged politicians, and party supporters, I was presented with an All-American, blond haired, blue eyed, prom queen with a grin of disgustingly white teeth. She went on to give her spiel about the honor that was bestowed upon her as she was only a senior in high school and about the virtues of getting involved with politics at what many consider a surprisingly young age. By participating in a major political event, this teenager was given a spot on national television, just because she "strayed from the norm." Rather than disregard this shell of a person whose life achievement is most likely that performance of manufactured, feel-good political buzzwords and stereotypes, for better or worse, effort went into a commentary of this shameful incident and the problem that lies therein

Before I am characterized as just another angst-ridden teenager with some space to fill in the school newspaper, consider the issues and stereotypes at play. It is painfully obvious that there is a disenchantment of young voters within our political system. 18-24 year old voters account for the lowest percentages in both registration and voting for the entire country, and the sight of one of these young citizens at a caucus is indeed a rare one. Politicians recognize this and various activists try to encourage a stronger showing by younger voters at the polls. However, the existence of programs such as Rock the Vote and Choose or Lose, which MTV have spearheaded, exemplifies the misunderstanding of the problem. For the most part, these programs emphasize popular appeal to a young demographic and search for positions on relevant issues that candidates have taken sides on. The question is, why should a special effort be made at all?

According to the most recent United States Census, the 18-24 year old age group has increased by 5.6% since 1996. The current estimated population of this group is 26,229 people. The current estimated population of the '45-49 year old -age group is 19,581 people. Programs meant to encourage the vote among this 18-24 year old group are indeed well formulated, and beneficial to those running. However, by ignoring the demographic completely, as most politicians do, they ignore a substantial voting force. Candidates for most elected positions do not seek the support of the young voter, and as a result, the young voter makes no special effort to support the candidates.

For example, the United States government recently came to the conclusion that there was a sizable budget surplus available. Of the major candidates running for the presidency in the upcoming election, numerous plans and ideas have been put forward as to what should be done with this bit of money that's left over. From McCain's securing social security, to Bush's big ol' fashioned tax cut, almost nothing

has been said about financing higher education. I know that I cannot judge without bias in this matter, and in fact I was watching television that fateful evening to break the monotony of filling out financial aid forms. However, if there is one true characterization of the 18-24 year old population, it is that a larger percentage are attending college than ever before. Only one candidate has offered any sort of policy on funding higher education, and it was none other than Al Gore, speaking at a small Democratic Party gathering in East Nowhere, New Hampshire.

Vice-President Al Gore underscores the next major deficiency that modern candidates display in today's campaigns. He's a stiff. He can change his wardrobe, he can make jokes, he can pretend to be the alpha male, but at the end of the day, he's a stiff. Although this facet is quite superficial, and in a sense, derogatory towards the younger voting population, the history is there to back it up. Preliminary analysis of the polls shows that our current president won a second term because, to a certain extent, he didn't look and act like Bob Dole. To deny the effect of image in the perhaps the closest election in American history, that between Nixon and Kennedy, would be to deny the obvious. John F. Kennedy clearly looked like a much a better human being than Nixon during the first televised debates in the nation's history. Today's candidates present yet another eclectic group of old, white men. Gore seems to have a secretive, vicious side, but for the most part he's a stiff. George Bush has some sort of past that would almost make him human, but his continual denial in answering any questions about his past as well as his continual denial in answering any questions at all with conviction seems to have wiped away that chance. McCain understands the appeal problem, but he is far from resolving the issue, as the following dialogue with Reporter Tony Snow demonstrates.

SNOW: Now, you have said that your favorite rock band is ... ?

MCCAIN: Nine Inch Nails. Nine Inch Nails. Yes, my daughter who is now 15 has kept me up to speed. I think the Back Street Boys are her favorite, but I'm terribly concerned, she seems to become enamored with Ricky Martin and I know he is a handsome guy but that's not the one I want her to marry.

(LAUGHTER)

SNOW: Speaking of controversy, I want to flash up some Nine Inch Nails lyrics. This is one on their most recent album. It says, "I play a game/ It's called insincerity/ Star*%\$^#@*." You can figure out what all those things are.

MCCAIN: Yeah.

SNOW: And after that the lyrics get really nasty.

MCCAIN: Yeah.

SNOW: Are you sure you're a Nine Inch Nails fan?

MCCAIN: I was joking when I said it. Obviously, I have not seen their words of their songs. And I was trying to make light of this whole issue of the generation gap that many of us politicians have with younger Americans. But, no, I take exception ...

Political candidates have an awful habit of not searching for the vote of certain demographics. Once those demographics respond by not voting, the blame is shifted to the young voters. This is truly a generation that is seen and not heard in the political landscape. As a result, talking heads get to fill jobs at MTV during campaign season, senators from Arizona make poor jokes, and airheads from Iowa get recognition as political activists for following the orders of a party.

saving Social Security to benefit our grandparents and our parents when they are retired. McCain also would use about 24% of the surplus to eliminate our national debt over time. The rest of the surplus would be used for more tax relief to Americans.

Campaign finance reform is a central concern for McCain, who believes that the soft money given to both political parties by numerous special interest groups has corrupted our political ideals. Recently, McCain has come under fire from some for having written a letter to the FCC to get a decision made in a case involving a company that had donated some money to his campaign. The truth was soon shown that in fact McCain was only following his duties as head of the Senate Commerce Commission, as well as the fact he asked for a resolution to the case as opposed to asking for a specific ruling in favor of that company.

John McCain is prepared to lead the country in the new century. He survived the horrors of war and has risen to become a leading voice in the US Senate. Now he is prepared to restore dignity and bring great leadership to the nation as our president.

Arts & Entertainment

Latin Takes *Adaptation* to the Drama Guild

By Kaitlyn Jolly, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Try this acronym on for size: MHSDG. You guessed it, the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild, an annual festival that showcases the talents of Bay State high school students in a competition of one act plays.

This year, at the Guild's sixty-ninth annual competition, BLS Centre Stage Productions is proud to present *Adaptation*, written by Elaine May and directed by Mr. Deadline himself, John Baker. With a cast eighteen strong, a monster technical crew (of which yours truly is a member) and the production team of John Baker (Director, Class I), Jon Gass, Jr. (Assistant Director, Class II), Rose Costello (Stage Manager, Class II) and Sarah Dwyer (Assistant Stage Manager, Class II), four of the most capable, intelligent and creative people I

know. To be quite honest, we are bound to tear it up.

Best Student Director (awarded to Ingrid Liff '99) and Best Set Design (awarded to John Baker), not to mention a slew of acting awards, including Best Ensemble Performance.

What can we expect from this year's performance? This is Latin's year to shine and the cast and crew are pouring their sweat and tears (I do not know about blood) into

selfless "techies" who have mastered the art of painting in closed spaces for extended periods of time. (We have worked so late some nights that we actually saw some construction workers pack up and go home.) I think I speak for all of them when I say the Best Set award is in the bag.

Adaptation chronicles the life of Phil Benson (played by Adam Finelli, Class III) through a game show, complete with buzzers and a god-like figure as the host, The Games Master, (played by Rhys Dudeney, Class II). This strange motif creates a humorous air as well as that of dark sarcasm and irony, providing a huge challenge for the actors. "I am hoping to get to know more people and learn more things," says newcomer Faith Imafidon (Class IV), a member of the ensemble. Keep your eyes open for

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The cast of *Adaptation* rehearses for their production, to be performed this March. (Photo by J. Hardy)

Last year at the Guild, the cast and crew of Steve Martin's *WASP* advanced to the semi-finals, a BLS record. We were garnished with such awards as

this production. They deserve any spoils they bring home. If I could speak personally for just a moment here: I am on the set crew, along with six talented and

"Coming Attractions" on the Latin Art Scene

Jon Gass, Jr.

David Unger Frye

Liz Johnson

By Katarina Yee, III
STAFF WRITER

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

By Mike DiLoreto, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Photo by J. Hardy

Jon Gass, Jr. is one of the most talented performers in the BLS drama community. He began his drama career at Boston Latin School two years ago as a freshman, when he played Schupanzigh, a character in the winter 1998 production of *Black Comedy*. Last year as a sophomore

Jon was the stage manager for *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged)*, a feat for anyone, never mind a busy Boston Latin School Sophomore. Jon also had significant roles in *WASP* as the Son last winter, and in *The Crucible* as Reverend Paris during the spring Centre Stage Production.

Jon is especially proud that he has been part of three productions that have gone, or are going to the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival. While *Black Comedy* was the third production to go to the Guild from Boston Latin, last year's *WASP* was the first to win the preliminary competitions, and qualify for the semi-finals. This year Jon has high expectations for *Adaptation*, of which he is the Assistant Director. "I am confident that our cast is ready to compete with the best," Jon states confidently.

As a Student Producer of the BLS Drama Club, Jon has a major concern about the lack of support the administration has for the arts programs at Boston Latin. "We are gaining a great opportunity with the new arts center, but changes must start here first." Jon hopes that with the new building he can come back after he graduates and see students concentrating on drama, as well as all the visual and performing arts, and be passionate about it.

Before he graduates Jon hopes to direct a BLS Drama Club production. Though he is a tad confused about the distant future, something that is to be expected of a BLS junior, he proclaims with certainty, "I want theatre to be a part of my life." With his unwavering determination and commitment to the arts at Boston Latin and beyond, it is inevitable that Jon will accomplish much in the future.

Junior David Unger Frye has a long and impressive background in music. Musical talent runs in his family, (his father attended the Berklee College of Music), and it certainly did not skip his generation. He learned to play the recorder in second grade, but his musical career really began in the fourth grade when he began playing the clarinet at the William Monroe Trotter School (one of the few Boston Public Elementary schools that has a music program). He continued to play throughout elementary and middle school, and also sang in various choral groups.

David began to perform here at Boston Latin as soon as he arrived, playing alto saxophone in the (no longer existent) Junior Jazz Band with Mr. Harper. That year he was also accepted to the Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind

Ensemble (MYWE) at the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music. He continued to play there through ninth grade with other BLS students like Olu Osinubi. In ninth grade David also joined the BLS Concert Choir as a bass. One might remember his superb solo from *H.M.S. Pinafore* at last year's Music Night. He is currently

performing with the Boston Latin School Big Band under the direction of Mr. Pitts. Outside of school he participates in the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra (GBYSO), a highly selective musical organization that is sponsored by Boston University. He will also display his vocal talents this year at the renowned South East District Music Festival.

After his experience in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, David cannot wait to increase his musical theatre repertoire. He also hopes to continue playing with the Big Band and singing with Concert Choir next year. In the future he plans to apply to strict conservatory-style music schools like Julliard, the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester and the New England Conservatory of Music. So in a few years keep your eyes (and ears) open for David Unger Frye with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Are there enough words in the dictionary to describe sophomore Liz Johnson? Probably not, but the adjectives intelligent, kind, and talented quickly come to my mind. Knowing Liz is both an honor and a privilege. So when I was asked to write an article and interview Liz on her art at Boston Latin, I thought I knew what I needed to know about her. Yet, there is more to this up-and-coming teen than meets the eye.

Liz started in the BLS Drama Club as a footnote in *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged)* and loved it. This small start was a stepping stone for Liz toward realizing her full potential as an actress. Next, she was in the acclaimed play *WASP* as the Head Female Voice, of which she did a fabulous rendition. "But," you say "those are only two plays!" Maybe you did not see Liz, but she was there in many other plays. Liz enjoys behind-the-scenes work, and was an Assistant Set Designer for spring production of *The Crucible*. Liz also says that one of her greatest past accomplishments was teaching drama to young children at the Neighborhood Arts program in Jamaica Plain just this past summer.

Currently, Liz is Co-Props Mistress for *Adaptation* and juggles the demanding schedule of the Drama Club with Concert Choir, to which she contributes her endless energy as a soprano. She has participated in several choirs since seventh grade. Liz is also rehearsing the mischievous character Puck in an independent play of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In fact, her knowledge of Puck won her first place in the first Public Declamation of the 1999-2000 school year when she recited a monologue from that famous play. And just when you might think she could do no more, Liz takes four honors courses and somehow maintains a straight "A" average.

So, Liz, with all this talent, what do you want to do in the future at BLS and afterwards? "I'm undecided, but theatre and writing sound great to me right now." Some day we will all see Liz's name in lights.



FILE PHOTO

Musical talent runs in David Unger Frye's family ... and it certainly did not skip his generation.

Arts Spotlight



Irene Kopitov

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Beginning in ninth grade, Boston Latin School students are given the opportunity to apply to scholarship art classes at the Museum of Fine Arts. During my time spent in these classes my freshman year, I was privileged to become acquainted with not only a superb artist, but also a wonderful person and friend: Irene Kopitov. I have many memories of my fellow artists and I remember fondly referring to Irene as “the purist” due to her passionate love for more classical art styles. However, Irene’s tastes and art have grown since those days four years ago when we were awed by Irene’s talent.

As hard as it was for her fellow art students to believe back then, Irene had no formal art training before the MFA Scholarship Art Classes, although she had always been extremely interested in art. That same summer after ninth grade, Irene was accepted into the Summer Studios Program at the Massachusetts College of Art. This was an intensive program usually meant for older art students preparing for college, but an exception was made for young Irene.

Irene returned to Latin for her sophomore year, but had to give up the Museum of Fine Arts program in order to participate in Girls’ Varsity Crew. Although she was not training formally during that time, Irene still continued to grow as an artist, learning for her own pleasure. Irene enjoyed that year away from formal classes because there was no pressure, and she could take more risks. However, the lack of pressure also meant having to be more self-disciplined, which was difficult at times.

The summer after sophomore year, Irene broadened her artistic range at the Art Institute of Boston. There she not only continued to study technique, but also added Art History to her list of courses. This class gave Irene a new perspective on art, one in which she was not actually the creator, but a student and appreciator. Some of Irene’s favorite artists now include John Singer Sargent and Chagall, as well as other American artists from the early twentieth century. As her tastes have grown and matured, Irene has also found a deep love for post-World War I expressionism, which she believes was a turning point in art history. “It was then that art really became influential,” she explains.

Irene returned to Latin that fall as a more mature and well-rounded art student and began studying in the Advanced Placement Art class, which she has continued into her senior year. Here Irene has been able to explore many techniques, focusing primarily on portraits in pen and ink and charcoal. For Irene, AP Art “has a lot to offer,” but she wishes that more students had the opportunity to take art classes at BLS, instead of the few who just happen to win the “lucky lottery.”

In addition to having been on the Crew Team for three years, Irene has also been involved with *The Register* since tenth grade. She has been chosen Co-Art Editor for two issues. Outside of school, Irene shares her unbelievable talents as the Co-President of Double Take, a program created to teach art to children in Jamaica Plain.

Irene is not completely certain about what she wants to do in the future, but her main goal is to pursue “a career with creative output.” That way, Irene can express herself through her work and continue to feed her love for creating art.

Irene has come a long way since our days at the MFA. It has been a pleasure to see her work mature and become refined. Expectations are high on what Irene will do with her talent, and we all expect to see her work displayed in fabulous New York galleries some day. Luckily, it is not in Irene’s character to disappoint.

Stars of 1999: Year in Review

By Tommy O’Malley, II
STAFF WRITER

1999 saw the advent of some of the most original movies in years. From *American Beauty* to *Being John Malkovich*, each movie outshone the last. Even more exciting than the movies themselves are the stars who drove them. There have been a number of actors who deserve recognition for their outstanding work last year.

As the tormented Colonel Fitts in *American Beauty*, Chris Cooper truly stood out in a movie filled with brilliant performances. The hard exterior Cooper shrouds his character in is both funny and

frightening at the same time. He showed his range as he took the audience on his journey of self-destruction. By the end of the movie, one is shocked to discover that the hard shell of a man has peeled away to reveal a pathetic little boy. In an award season filled with over-the-top acting, it will be a shame if the subtle but haunting Cooper is overlooked.

As the transgender Brandon Teena, Hilary Swank gave perhaps the most daring performance of the year in *Boys Don’t Cry*. Following in the footsteps of fellow method actors Marlon Brando and Bette Davis, Swank actually lived as Brandon for a month before the shooting began. Everyday she forced herself to go out into the world as a man, and if she was unsuccessful in convincing people, she would go out the next day and the next until she got it right. It is truly refreshing to see the new generation of actors carrying the torch of those who defined the craft. Unlike Cooper, who is not receiving half of the credit he deserves, Swank has been honored with no fewer than six awards, and even beat Meryl Streep out for a Golden Globe. In 2000, Swank will be onscreen again in Billy Bob Thornton’s *The Gift*.

Technically she has been around for a while, but it was through three vastly different roles in 1999 that Cate Blanchett really was able to spread her wings. In *An Ideal Husband*, she was pure and sweet as Jeremy Northam’s wife. At the other end of the spectrum, she was a no-nonsense New Jersey housewife in *Pushing Tin* opposite John Cusack and Angelina Jolie. Her most impressive work, however, came in Anthony Minghella’s *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. As Meredith,

an American of privilege living in Italy, Blanchett shows her chameleon-esque ability to change herself completely to fit a role. And with at least three movies to be released in 2000 (including *The Gift* with Hilary Swank), Blanchett doesn’t seem to be going anywhere but towards further success.

A British stage actress who gained acclaim after her 1997 Tony win for *A Doll’s House*, Janet McTeer has begun to put her

mark in American film. After her recent Golden Globe win for her dead-on performance as a southern belle in *Tumbleweeds*, it is safe to say that McTeer is on her way to becoming one of

Hollywood’s leading ladies. And like Blanchett, she is comfortable playing characters far different from your typical British stiff upper lip. She is going to be a force to be reckoned with at the Academy Awards.

She first danced her way into Hollywood as Jim Carrey’s blonde bombshell dream girl in *The Mask*. Since then, Cameron Diaz has played (surprise, surprise) a series of blonde bombshells. This year, however, she surprised the movie world by showing in not one, but two films that she can, in fact, act. As John Cusack’s frazzled wife in *Being John Malkovich*, she played thrillingly against type, and at the same time, stole every scene she was in. In Oliver Stone’s *Any Given Sunday*, she gave a very honest portrayal of a team owner out to prove herself. And with four films due out in 2000, including the remake of *Charlie’s Angels*, Diaz will undoubtedly cement herself as one of Hollywood’s serious actresses.



Chris Cooper and Wes Bentley light up the screen in *American Beauty*.



Cate Blanchett first became known on the American movie screen playing the title role in *Elizabeth*.



Hilary Swank, star of new movie *Boys Don’t Cry* and *The Gift*

Those Beats Down the Hall

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER



Rhythmology hard at work in room 114.
(Photo by J. Yip)

“Oohntzbit ... tatatatatatata. OOHntzbop ... badoomb-badoomb ... Oohntzbot!!!!” You hear the electrifying beats flow on as you walk down the hall by the Main Office on a Thursday afternoon. Your body starts to pulsate from head to toe, as the rhythm actively pursues control of your every movement. You instinctively change your direction and peer into the window of room 114. The beats are being produced spontaneously, but somehow they seem to have been destined to happen. They have been inside you for so long, but you are just now actually hearing them ... well my friends, if you’ve experienced that, then you’ve experienced Rhythmology.

What is it about buckets and pans that creates such intense pulses? The club motto attempts to explain it somewhat: “It ain’t in the buckets, it’s in the rhythm.” Whatever it is, the sound has electrified countless after-school amblers and has drawn them into experience the flow of BLS’s hottest new club. When the club was first being conceived last year, the founder knew what the club was going to

do; he was just unsure of how to confine it to words. After searching through volumes and volumes of musical dictionaries, he found the perfect word and definition: *Rhythmology* (rith-em’ol-o-jee) *n.* the act or study of creating intense beats that leave your mind pulsing.

Founded last year by then-senior Jonah Goldstein, and revived early this year by senior Lev Grossman-Spivack, the club has resumed its practice in Mr. Pitts’ room every Thursday after school. With a consistent group of about four or five jammers, and a different set of newcomers each week, the club has taken off this year to new heights. Earlier this year, the club took to the streets of Boston at the First Night celebration downtown, and made some serious money. But they are not in it for the money. They just love flowing with the rhythms.

Although the club includes several accomplished drummers, Rhythmology eschews traditional snares and bongos in favor of paint buckets, washboards, and the occasional trash can, “donated” by Mr. Pitts. Their First Night extravaganza was a veritable recycling bin of percussion, including an aluminum planter, some 3/4 inch wooden dowels, and, well, a recycling bin, “donated” by someone on Newbury St.

Which is not to say that the club is all about simple beating on various stolen objects. The unstoppable thump is often accented with the howl of a harmonica or the rumble of a funky bass guitar. The result is somewhere between a phat celebration of the rhythms of the universe and a full-scale religious experience. Passersby are often drawn into the “circle of beats,” at first cautiously, then unabashedly as their inhibitions fall away like so many busted sticks (the Rhythmology crew breaks about a half-dozen sticks a week).

The club is presently collaborating with the Hip-Hop Club, the Theatre Arts Department, and a few break dancing fiends, and hopes to put together a big show in March. The show needs support to go on, so consider helping out by spreading the word. Rhythmology is also looking to expand into smaller groups or jamming sessions, so if you have been to one session already and want to join permanently, come by some day soon. For those few skeptics who seem unable to check their inhibitions: try walking by without peering into the window, finding your knees bending to the beat, and moving your feet from side to side to the rhythm.

If you want to learn more about the origins of Rhythmology and its future performances, you can visit its website at: <http://rhythmology.hypermart.net/rhythmology.html>. And, if you’re afraid to find your inner thump, splat, or boom-sis, stay away from room 114.



“It ain’t in the buckets, it’s in the rhythm.”
(Photo by J. Yip)

Adaptation Goes to the Guild

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her. This is her first Latin school production, but it definitely will not be her last. I also pulled Jeremy Jackson (who plays Dore, Mark and a Frat Guy) away from rehearsal for a while to ask him what he thinks about participating in the Guild. He replied that “You could compare it to big sports events.” That is right on the nose considering the amount of team work and preparation that is involved in such a production.

Crunch time is officially on, and the infamous “Tech Week” (a Stage Manager’s worst nightmare, I can vouch for that) is almost upon us, filled with stop and go rehearsals, light cue after light cue and literally hours of putting up and dismantling the set. (The Guild judges only allow five minutes to assemble the set.)

“It’s hard to see the end coming,” says Stage Manager Rose Costello, who has a polite yet firm way of whipping people into shape, a wonderful characteristic for a Stage Manager, perhaps the hardest, most stressful position in a production. As for the somewhat nervous Director, who only half-kiddingly told me that he wants to sit in the audience blindfolded and with ear plugs on says, “It’s been a real challenge, but I think everyone, myself included, has learned a lot from the experience.”

Adaptation will be running March 10-12 at the Mass College of Art Tower Auditorium Friday at 3:30 and 7:00, Saturday at 2:00 and 7:00 and Sunday at 2:00. The cast and crew have put a great deal of work into this production and hope that they can count on the support of the Boston Latin School community for their newest thespian endeavor.

Arts Spotlight



FILE PHOTO

Michael MacAllister

By Paul Stankus, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You may have seen him cruising through the halls with one of his three guitars strapped on his back. You might have seen him in the library feverishly scribbling out the notes to his latest work of art. You may have even seen him in the lunch line as he bought two cartons of milk and a bag of *Vienna Cremes*. The man is Mike MacAllister, musician extraordinaire. This exceptionally bright and polite young man may seem like any other intelligent and promising Latinite, but what lurks just under the surface of this anything-but-typical guy is pure, unadulterated, musical genius.

Born on June 11, 1982, this Gemini found what would be his love at the impressionable age of six, now eleven years ago. Mike chuckles reminiscently as he recalls the toy guitar, microphone and stand that first piqued his interest. He would stand with the toy guitar in his hands and sing into the toy microphone. Years later, Mike has put the toys away and plays with a skill that amazes those at this school, at the Berklee College of Music and at the New England Conservatory of Music. His perennial favorites and principle influences are Wayne Shorter, John Scofield, Mike Stern, John Coltrane, Joe Henderson, Charlie “Bird” Parker and, most notably, Dave Fiuczynski. Mike has learned to incorporate a little of each style into his playing. But for his introduction to jazz, Mike takes his hat off to Abby Aronson, his first teacher, whose husband Norm can also play some “mean guitar.”

Now the dreams that Mike had as a six-year-old of becoming a performer, producer, composer and arranger are beginning to come to fruition. He now has three guitars, which he has named Suzie, Roxanne and Sarah. Depending on his mood and the music he will play, Mike can be found playing any of the three.

But if you expect to see this connoisseur of the devil’s music at Park Street Station, playing for the proletariat masses, hoping to be tossed a quarter, think again. Mike will be quick to reprimand you for making such a suggestion. He hopes never to have to do such an act. After all, says Mike, MBTA Stations are for waiting in trains, not for showing off one’s talent on the guitar, no matter how great it may be.

At Boston Latin School, Mike is involved in nearly every facet of music that it is possible for a guitar player. Mike plays the bass and guitar for the BLS Jazz Band, bass for the Small Jazz Combo, is “Pit Band director” for the Show Choir and plays bass for the Gospel Choir. To top it all off, this conquistador of the guitar is also acing Mr. Pitts’ AP Music class. “Wow,” you might be saying, “this kid is, like, wicked amazing.” Well, compadre of mine, that is not all, oh no (would I be writing about him if it were?). Outside the walls of our hallowed institution Mike can often be found taking classes at the Berklee College of Music or performing at the New England Conservatory of Music, a stone’s throw away from the bust of Beethoven. The multi-faceted Mike is also a member of the Southeast District Jazz Band. What’s next on the schedule for Mr. Michael MacAllister? Well, auditions for the All-State Jazz Band are quickly approaching and, as I write, Mike is preparing to undertake the challenge.

So the next time you see Mike MacAllister roaming the halls or buying some milk, take a minute to say “Hi.” Maybe you might just want to stand and stare in awe of the talented Mr. MacAllister. Either way, in ten years you will be able to say that you “knew” Mike MacAllister in high school as he picks up his fifteenth Grammy Award.

Yes, it is an honor to have known Mike MacAllister and to be able to call him my friend. Not only is he a great guy who exemplifies all that our esteemed institution stands for, but he has great talent, the like of which may never be seen by any of us ever again. So I urge you, see the kid play for yourself before he graduates and his name is put in the auditorium next to Leonard Bernstein’s.

Did You Know?

Congratulations to Senior Michael DiLoreto! Michael was a semi-finalist in an Amateur Open Photography Contest. Michael entered his photograph, "Teenage Reflections" in the nature category of the contest and was selected as one of 250 semi-finalists out of approximately 10,000 contestants! His photograph will be included in the book *Life's Canvas*, due in bookstores soon.



Theatre for Free: Usher for Blue Man Group

By Katarina Yee, III
STAFF WRITER

Since October of 1995 the Charles Playhouse has been the scene of absolute comic genius, the home of the Blue Man Group's show *Tubes*. Three men, Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink created the Blue Man Group in 1987. After performing small shows in and around Central Park, they created *Tubes*, which first appeared in LaMaMa, a small theatre in New

York, in January of 1991. The Blue Man Group earned the prestigious Obie Award for that production. Eleven months later they moved to the current New York home, the Astor Place Theatre. When the president of Broadway in Boston, Jon B. Platt, saw the production in New York, he knew Boston had to be the next home of the Blue Man Group. To make this possible the Charles Playhouse underwent much renovation and in October of 1995 the Blue Man Group opened to capacity audiences. There is no accurate way to describe *Tubes*. The Blue Man Group combines comedy with rhythmic music and audience interaction with elements of surprise to create an exhilarating show. The music, which is played by a glow-in-the-

dark house band, is synchronized with what the three blue men are doing on stage. It is amazing to think that the creators of this ingenious production also composed the fabulous music. *Tubes* is about three blue beings, discovering different aspects of life, going about it in a humorous way. People of all ages will enjoy the phenomenon. If you are able to pay \$40.00 to \$50.00 per ticket, then feel free to do so. It is definitely worth it. However, seeing the show once or twice just is not enough and by the third or fourth time you will most likely be in debt. Solution: Usher! It's as easy as picking up the phone and then setting up a date and time when you will



help the house managers stuff programs, escort people to their seats before the show starts, and complete the post-show clean-up. During the show, you can sit back and enjoy the performance. People who want to usher on a specific date should call a few weeks in advance. Spending an hour and a half with The Blue Man Group will be one of the most thrilling experiences of your life ... something people cannot say about many other shows. For more information and show times, call (617) 426-6912. For tickets, call (617) 931-2787. For more information go to <http://www.bluelman.com>.

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Congratulations to the Scholastic Art Winners!

Class I
Hajarah Abdussabur, Portfolio Nominee, Honorable Mention (work, *Unity*, at left)
Andrea Alessi, Silver Key
Vinh Thuy Truong, Honorable Mention

Class II
Richard Arris, Gold Key
Tam Pham, Gold Key

Class IV
Glen Ryan, Gold Key
Jamila Martin, Honorable Mention

Class V
Richard Wu, Honorable Mention

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Arts & Entertainment Calendar Compiled By John Baker and Gina Cappellano

Movie Release Dates	Upcoming Theatre Events																																																						
<p>American Beauty returns to theatres 2/18, starring Kevin Spacey and Annette Benning</p> <p>Boiler Room opens 2/18, directed by Ben Younger and starring Giovanni Ribisi and Ben Affleck</p> <p>Hanging Up opens 2/18, directed by Biane Keaton and starring Diane Keaton, Meg Ryan, and Lisa Kudrow</p> <p>Holy Smoke opens 2/18, directed by Jane Campion and starring Harvey Keitel and Kate Winslet</p> <p>The Whole Nine Yards opens 2/18, directed by Jonathan Lynn and starring Bruce Willis and Rosanna Arquette</p> <p>Wonder Boys opens 2/25, directed by Curtis Hanson and starring Michael Douglas</p> <p>Chain of Fools opens 3/3, directed by Pontus Lowenhielm and Patrick Von Krusenstjerna and starring Steve Zahn and Salma Hayek</p> <p>Drowning Mona opens 3/3, directed by Nick Gomez and starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Danny DeVito</p> <p>The Next Big Thing opens 3/3, directed by John Schlesinger and starring Madonna and Rupert Everett</p> <p>Tumbleweeds opens 3/3, directed by Gavin O'Connor and starring Janet McTeer and Kimberly Brown</p> <p>What Planet Are You From? opens 3/3, directed by Michael Nichols and starring Garry Shandling</p> <p>Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai opens 3/10, directed by Jim Jarmusch and starring Forest Whitaker</p> <p>Mission to Mars opens 3/10, directed by Brian DePalma and starring Gary Sinise and Tim Robbins</p> <p>Erin Brockovich opens 3/17, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Julia Roberts and Aaron Eckhart</p> <p>The Ninth Gate opens 3/17, directed by Roman Polanski and starring Johnny Depp and Lena Olin</p> <p>Romeo Must Die opens 3/22, directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak and starring Jet Li and Aaliyah Haughton</p> <p>Whatever It Takes opens 3/24, directed by David Raynr and starring James Franco and Jodi Lyn O'Keefe</p> <p>High Fidelity opens 3/31, directed by Stephen Frears and starring John Cusack and Joan Cusack</p> <p>The Road to Eldorado opens 3/31, animated by Dreamworks and SKG</p> <p>Rule of Engagement opens 3/31, directed by William Friedkin (director of William Peter Blatty's <i>The Exorcist</i>) and starring Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones</p> <p>Scary Movie opens 3/31, directed by Keenen Ivory Wayans and starring Regina Hall and Jonathan Abrahams</p> <p>Whipped opens 3/31, directed by Peter Cohen and starring Amanda Peet and Jonathan Abrahams</p> <p>Black and White opens 4/5, directed by James Toback and starring Robert Downey Jr. and Stacy Edwards</p> <p>28 Days opens 4/7, directed by Betty Thomas and starring Sandra Bullock and Steve Buscemi</p> <p>American Psycho opens 4/7, directed by Mary Harron and starring Resse Witherspoon</p> <p>Joe's Gold opens 4/7, directed by Stanley Tucci and starring Stanley Tuccian and Ian Holm</p> <p>Price of Glory opens 4/7, directed by Carlos Avila and starring Jimmy Smits and Jon Seda</p> <p>Return to Me opens 4/7, directed by Bonnie Hunt and starring David Duchovny and Minnie Driver</p>	<p>Anne of Green Gables @ Wheelock Family Theatre through 2/27</p> <p>ART @ The Colonial Theatre 3/7 - 3/26</p> <p>Blue Man Group Ongoing @ The Charles Playhouse (blueman.com)</p> <p>Communicating Doors @ Lyric Stage Company of Boston through 3/12</p> <p>A Few Good Men @ Institute of Contemporary Art through 3/5</p> <p>Full Circle @ American Reperatory Theatre 2/11 - 3/19</p> <p>Loot @ American Reperatory Theatre 1/28 - 3/15</p> <p>The BLS Drama Club performs Adaptation @ The 69th Annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival @ Newton South High School on 3/4 @ 9:15AM</p> <p>Mary Stuart @ Huntington Theatre 3/10 - 4/9</p> <p>Smokey Joe's Cafe @ Wang Theatre through 2/27</p> <p>Taller Than a Dwarf @ The Wilbur Theatre through 3/19</p> <p>Temptation @ The Peabody House Theatre Cooperative through 3/4</p> <p>WIT @ The Wilbur Theatre through 2/27</p>																																																						
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	<p>Does someone in your grade deserve a "Coming Attraction?"</p> <p>Let us know! Contact the Arts and Entertainment Editors Gina Cappellano in HR 337 or John Baker in HR 336.</p>																																																						

Sports

Girls' Hockey Shines

By Ryan Still, I
STAFF WRITER

This year the Girls' Hockey team has been overshadowed slightly. By whom or what you ask? By a 16-1-0 Boys' Hockey Team and an exciting basketball team. I think it would be safe to say that the majority of the school doesn't know much about the Girls' Hockey team. Who's who? What's their record? Are they any good? Well, allow me to inform you.

First of all, the team brings one very important element to the ice: talent. This group of girls find themselves 12-1-1 and at the top of the Division II. Their only loss of the season came from the skilled Fontbonne Academy Ducks. Captain Lauren Hurley, the lone Senior, provides the leadership a young team feeds off of. With a team consisting of two Sixies, three eighth graders, and five Freshmen, strong leadership is an essential and crucial factor.

Don't believe for one second that these younger players are used for bench warming duties either. Three of the four leading scorers haven't even reached the tenth grade yet. Freshmen Aislinn Doherty and Kerry Brennan have found themselves on the sheet numerous times this year. Always helping out on the offense is Catherine Foley, who is also just a Sixie,

As for defense, Co-Captain Jessica Price makes it a difficult task getting past her blue line. Freshman Helen McCarthy provides the goaltending and has done a wonderful this year between the pipes.

The Girls' Hockey team has

had an exciting history these past few years which most of us are not even familiar with. The Lady Pack belongs to the Eastern Massachusetts Girls Hockey Alliance (EMGHA) and has remained competitive over the past couple of years. They won the State Championship in 1997 and again in 1998. Their expectations have not diminished, as they look for yet another State Championship.

I'll be the first to admit that all the success of the Boys' Hockey Team is extremely exciting. However, let's not forget that we also have a Girls' team representing our school, which has also had a great season. The State Tournament is right around the corner, and Latin looks to win it again this year. So if by the time you read this, the season is over then congratulate the girls on a job well done. If not, then get out there and support the girls.



Junior Jessica Price of the Girls' Hockey team circles round the net during a scoring bid.

Boys' Hockey: Sitting On Top of the World

HOCKEY, from Page 1

The team's forwards have shredded the opposition.

Tri-captains Balaconis, Kearney, and Belmonte were understandably very optimistic when they spoke about this year's team. They felt that this team is well-rounded and, "has good goaltending, offense, and defense." When the captains were interviewed, the team was still undefeated so a huge question on the minds of the masses was could this team stay undefeated? "We should go undefeated the

rest of the way," they said, "but Revere will be a real tough game for us." Well, I hate to say it, but the guys were dead on about Revere. The Wolfpack suffered their first defeat at the hands of that team. Despite the loss, the team perseveres and is still a top team in Division II in the state. Balaconis and Belmonte feel that Acton-Boxboro was also a tough opponent. "The game against Acton was tough," they stated, "the team was down early, but we came back to win."

Balaconis and Belmonte feel very pleased about the team. "The team has been very productive and a pleasant surprise," said the captains. "The power play and penalty killing unit has been far better than expected, and our lines are really working well together."

Can this year's Boys' Hockey team really do it? Can they go all the way to a Division II championship? It is too hard to predict, but a word to the wise: do not bet against the Wolfpack. They have already proved the naysayers wrong once and, will be glad to do it again.



Goalie John Balaconis, who has been a crucial part of BLS's success this year, comes up with a big save during the Wolfpack's 3-1 win over Lincoln-Sudbury.

Superfan Speaks His Mind...

By Michael Donahue, I
STAFF WRITER

SORRY. A wise man once said that everyone is allowed one mistake a year, and in the last Argo I made mine. "...and a depleted offensive unit... team will get defensive... contend for a league title and should sneak into the tournament with a seven or eight seed," that was a few fragments from my last article. Looking back now what I meant to say was this, "this year's hockey team will have an outstanding and well balanced offense and defense all anchored by strong goaltending. They will easily go undefeated in the DCL/MVC again and win the league title and will without a shadow of a doubt be the number one seed when the sectional tournament begins. In fact their so good they're even going to be ranked in the top twenty of the state and could possibly earn a berth in the Super Eight." Actually the Guys' Hockey team has really surprised everyone but themselves. Currently 16-1-0 (7-0-0 in the DCL) and ranked 12th in the state, they are the talk of the school. Although a Super Eight berth is something of an impossible task for a Division II team, if they go undefeated and keep impressing everyone by winning by so much, one never knows... Whatever happens when the tourna-

ment time comes around in early March they will be heavy favorites to win a State Championship. They well deserve the respect they're earning, as Coach Coleman has been building this team up over the past three years.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ... Can you guess how many league titles the Girls' Indoor Track team can actually win before the entire Dual County League gives up? Answer:

It seems that after four straight post season championships, and their fifth straight regular season title, this season, the DCL has given up. There are rumors floating around that they're going to pull the plug on the post season championship because no one can beat the Latin girls. If this is true it is a sign of the deepest respect anyone can show another team. I also remember someone saying in the last issue that this was the best team in the school, and... just kidding I'm not going there. Seriously

though, the dominance of this team is incredible, and it doesn't matter if they have a championship or not because these girls know they're going to win. Just the other day their relay team set a new DCL record, which no one thought could be broken on route to the regular season championship.

NEVER GIVE UP. Both the Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams are in the stages of rebuilding this year and currently have losing records. Big deal, both teams give 110% on the floor, and if you ever attend one of the games you can see how much hard work they put in even when they're overmatched. The girl's team in particular plays in the extremely competitive DCL and holds their with almost every team they play. In fact, if they put a nice little streak together at

the end of the season, they will qualify for the state tournament.

DEDICATION. Who are those guys running up and down stairs all the time, or waiting after school for a bus, or tagging along with the mighty Girls' Track team? The Boys' Wrestling, Swimming, and Track teams are the answers. These are the forgotten sports of the winter, because everyone wants to be a basketball or hockey star and when they don't make it, they think that the "lesser sports" would be too easy for them. Too easy? Maybe, if you think you can keep yourself at a certain weight or can swim or run between four and seven miles a day and also not get home until six or seven every night. These forgotten teams are overmatched because of a lack of numbers against big DCL teams, but they perhaps work harder and represent the school better than anyone else.

THE END. By the way, this is a New Year so I get my one mistake back. Thank you again to everyone that said they enjoyed my article last time. I'm pretty sure everyone did except for the twenty-five guys on the Hockey team that yelled at me after they saw it. Hopefully, they, along with everyone else, will like this one a little better. Until next time then, HOCKEY TEAMS GOIN' KICK A** IN THE TOURNAMENT and hopefully I'll see everyone there. This is Superfan signing off.



Boston Latin's Superfan, courtesy of Ryan Montoya.

Lady Wolfpack on the Hunt in the DCL

By Katie McDonald, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 1999-2000 Girls' Basketball team faces an extremely difficult challenge. They are forced to live up to the expectations of last year's tremendous squad. This year started somewhat slow for the Wolfpack, but these fifteen strong spirited young women have proved that they too can play with intensity, passion, and excitement.

The 1998-1999 Girls' Basketball team included star Center Gaby Stockmayer who provided the Wolfpack with a very strong, intimidating presence in the middle. Kristen McDonnell powered Latin with her wonderful, offensive talent and all around hard work. Despite these great losses, the 1999-2000 team has held their own and overcome many of the obstacles that go along with being a young team.

Junior Captain Ashley Britton helps lead the team. She is a spectacular guard and all around aggressive player who never fails to excite the crowd with her drives to the basket or keep her team pumped and ready to play. Senior Captain Maddie O'Donovan knows her team that has a bright future. She has said, "They (the younger players) know we can win now, having beat some really good teams. Going into the second half of the season, everyone is pumped." O'Donovan is a large reason why her team is so pumped. She works very hard and has shown by example how good this team can be. O'Donovan never fails to hustle after loose balls, create on offense, or play her wonderful defense. Senior Captain Lauren Smyth gives the team great rebounding and hustle 100% of the time. She is a great defensive asset to this team. Senior Anya Drabkin offers the team rebounding and post play off the bench. She never fails to hustle.

Freshman Alexandra Allukian brings young



Coach Bennie Myers guidance has been crucial to the development of the young members of the Lady Wolfpack.

talent to the team. She is a very versatile player who can drive, postup, rebound, and defend. Starting Center Kristen Stone, an eighth grader, is the team's youngest player. She can rebound, pass, and supplies Latin with great work inside. Freshman Catherine Stone plays the power forward position. She rebounds and drives well. Catherine is a dangerous threat near the basket and in the open court.

Sophomore Jackie Coffey is an excellent basketball player who is extremely dangerous in the open court and very aggressive down low. Freshman Stephanie Maneikis provides the team with tremendous defense and speed. Sophomore Kate Naber is a very good shooter and great rebounder off the bench. Kate Pappas, also a Sophomore, offers very tough guard play. Pappas can not only shoot and go to her left hand well, she can also rebound well. Junior Liz Arias and Freshman Lauren Scagnoli come off the bench and do a very good job rebounding.

The team emerged victorious 53-46 in a Dual County contest against Bedford. Ashley Britton was a

major force scoring 21 points. Alexandria Allukian poured in 18 to help win the game. O'Donovan scored 6 points and contributed tenacious defense. Both Kristen Stone and Jackie Coffey added 3.

Earlier this season in Latin's first game, the team lost to Newton South by a very large margin. On Friday the 21st of January, Latin had their chance to seek revenge. They came very close to winning, but just couldn't pull it off. They lost 35-25. Ashley Britton scored 12 points, Lauren Smyth had 4 off the bench, and Alex Allukian contributed 3. Jackie Coffey and Catherine Stone both added a bucket for the Pack. The real story of this game, however, was the defense. The Wolfpack held

South to only two points in the opening 10 minutes of the game, which was quite an accomplishment.

The Newton South coach, Mark Aronson had this to say after the game when asked about Latin, "[The team is] much improved. They have some very young players, and you can see they are going to be a very good team. [There is] a tremendous improvement. Coach Myers does a great job."

The Boston Latin School Girls' Basketball team is still going strong at the halfway point in their season. They continue to play every game with increasing intensity. They excite the crowd, and give it all they've got! I strongly encourage you to come watch one of their action packed games. Good luck girls!

They are forced to live up to the expectations of last year's tremendous squad.

Wolfpack Hoops Fights Hard

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER

The thing Coach Mac's gym students never realize about him is that he might actually have a lot to say if you just ask the right questions. I just happened to talk to him on the right topic: basketball. Being the basketball coach, and being probably the tallest teacher in the school, I figured he'd know the most about this year's team. While enduring some of Mr. Coleman's joking ribs, I was able to get some information on the Wolfpack Basketball squad. Coach MacNamara is a very straightforward guy, and according to Aaron McCormick (Senior-Center), "He's a great coach, and a great guy to play for. He tells us exactly what we need to do to win. And that just makes it easier on us."

It's difficult to look past one of the obstacles the coach and the team have had to deal with coming into this season: losing would-be Junior starting Center Torin Francis to Taber Academy. The team regrets the loss, but doesn't want to dwell on it. "We don't need to use that as a crutch. What can you do, you know? Everyone's giving 110%

and that's all I can ask for," says Coach MacNamara when asked of the team's efforts to cover the hole Torin left. Looking at the present situation, Coach MacNamara wants to take whatever steps necessary now to make this season the best possible.

The team is led into competition with their suburban opponents by a strong core of seniors. Michael Young, the team's Senior Co-Captain senior and off-guard, has proved thus far in the season to be the key to the team's success. "When he's on, the team's on," says Coach Mac. He has exploded for over 30 points this year on more than one occasion and has led

the team out of its shooting woes early in the season. Adrien Townsend is able to improve one of the major problems from vertical deficiencies with his keen rebounding skills. Thomas Imahiyerobo, Aaron McCormick, and Co-Captain Matt Mitchell are all able to contribute in their own ways when called upon. John Fitz, who became eligible to play in the fifth game with Matt Mitchell, contributes to the team's success greatly with his outside shooting game.

Coach MacNamara likes to stress the fundamentals at his practices. "Conditioning is important, especially for this year's team. We need to be quick and have good endurance for those long, fast-paced games we'll get ourselves into." Though Coach Mac doesn't like to admit it, prac-



Senior Captain and leading scorer Mike Young takes aim for the hoop.



Senior Center Aaron McCormick is in position for the offense rebound.

ticing this year has been especially hard for the team with six teams using the gym. The team could use the extra drilling and full court practices that they miss because of the limited gym time due to the construction. This year's small team needs to focus on their shooting percentage, not turning the ball over and using their speed to their advantage. In the Concord and Bedford games, the team shot over 50%, and they were two of their best games so far this season. If they continue to play that way, they should be successful in the DCL. "The DCL isn't in the best shape this year. Newton seems to be strong now. There are a lot of team's knocking each other off," says Coach MacNamara. This is good news for the BLS team. They need a few good games and upsets to have a chance at the tournament. And with the weaker league this year, they should have a good chance to do it. So, to be honest with you... this year's basketball squad's record of 4 and 8 hasn't lived up to the school's expectations coming off of last year's season, but they have ample excuses to do more poorly than they are doing and have been leaving everything on the court.

Sports Spotlight



Maryanne Porter

By Erin Burke, II
STAFF WRITER

She's a runner. She's one of those people who actually enjoys going out for a leisurely jog of six miles, even when the temperature outside is 20 degrees. She doesn't mind sprinting a grueling speed workout, doesn't mind leading a group of 50 girls through stretches and conditioning exercises, and certainly doesn't mind running her heart out in an important meet and coming in first.

Meet Maryanne Porter, one of the many talented girls on the Boston Latin School Indoor Track team. A team that has become notorious for winning these past few years. Ever since she stepped on the track for the first time in the ninth grade, Maryanne has qualified for Class A's and States in a multitude of events and has been busy in leading her team to four out of their past five DCL Championship victories. She's also been the star "tracklete" of the outdoor track team, which she's also been a member of since the ninth grade, and of the cross country team, of which she's been a member and solid contributor since tenth.

Maryanne's been excelling in her sport ever since the start. In ninth grade after her very first season, she was awarded the Coach's Award at the sports banquet for her impressive season during indoor. She made the qualifying cut the very first time she ran the 600 meter race and has ever since been dropping down time. She was 7th in Class A last year and was given league All-Star status in both the 10th and 11th grade. What was even more impressive was Maryanne's ability to change events to help out her team and taking on the task of running the 1000 meter race. Regardless of it not being her best or favorite event, she qualified for states as a junior and senior and just up until recently held the school record as well.

This "Portahouse" has a whole list of accomplishments and records to her name. Add to her school records the nationally ranked 4x400 meter team, which is looking to better its rank of 3rd in the state and 3rd in New England, and the 300 Hurdles race, an event ran in outdoor. Again, Maryanne didn't need to work to compete at the state level, she qualified the very first time she ran it and was 2nd in Class A and 8th in the entire state last year.

Include the fact that Maryanne also shines in the "field" aspect of track. She's been a constant performer in the long jump, shot put, and javelin. The long jump and javelin of which she again qualified for states. Also, she's been given the awards of team MVP for the outdoor season in the tenth grade, and Most Improved for cross-country in tenth grade as well. She's been the captain of cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track for junior year and senior year and has enjoyed league all-star status for the past three years as well.

So she seems all about track, but there's more to this runner than that. Manne, as she is affectionately nicknamed by her friends, has a heavy workload this year to cap off her six years here at Latin. With both Physics and Calculus APs, it would seem hard to juggle school with a demanding sport, but Maryanne does it with ease. She loves to eat jelly bellies as well. Although there isn't any one particular role model in her life, she admires Prefontaine immensely. Maryanne loves her entire team and coaches in addition to her sport. She'd like to give a little hey to the 4x400, and say that "we're going all the way!" I don't know about you, but it seems like she's already there.

Diving into the Pool

By Erin Burke, II
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Latin Boy's Swim team is continuing to make waves everywhere. They have an impressive 4-8 record so far even though the other teams have pools IN their school, can use points from divers while we have none and can swim girls while ours swim in the fall. This team is hoping to make a splash in the D.C.L. Championship meet which will be competed as only a boys' meet and in the upcoming Sectional and State meets.

Leading the way will be senior Mike Donahue, who is leading the team scoring and has already qualified for sectionals in the 200 IM and the 100 breast. He will be looking to be up there in the D.C.L. Championship meet, where it is very likely that he will place in either of his events. He is maintaining very high spirits about his less than average size team and feels very content with their success thus far.

Another strong contributor is junior Seth Thomases, who is very strong in the sprint freestyle events. Also a fast 50 and 100 freestyler is junior Kevin Mann. These two usually aren't that far apart at the end of a race, and usually manage to capture either first and second, or second and third. Junior Danny O'Reilly has been tremendous this season in the 100 backstroke, cutting off time the entire

season regardless of a hindering shoulder injury. Usually placing in the top three of every meet, he has been very optimistic thus far and is still looking forward to this year and next year's sectional meets. Dante Poles, Pat Maloof, and Ricky Morse are all seniors who swim very demanding events and excel. Dante helps out in the 200 free usually, while Ricky and Pat swim the 500 freestyle fly, two of the most challenging events of the entire meet. These three have shared a very successful career at Boston Latin and look to end it with a bang at DCLs.

The upperclassmen, however, are not the only ones that contribute. Freshman Ben Dockery is strong in the backstroke and John Moore the Third and Jimmy Sun help out in a multitude of events. An impressive contributor is Joe Kane, a seventh grader who, despite his size, swims the 200 and 500 freestyle, the long-distance freestyle events. His dedication has been immense and appreciated by the entire team.

The quartet of Danny O'Reilly, Ricky Morse, Seth Thomases and Mike Donahue are also going to sectionals in the 200 free relay and the 200-medley relay. Hoping to shine there, they look forward to competing amongst the best in the state. Despite their small size and tough competition, the Swim team is doing well thus far. Improving each year, they certainly look forward to doing well next season. Nevertheless, winter season 1999-2000 has been pretty successful and memorable for both the swimmers and the coaches.

Wrestling Their Way to the Top

By Karyn Rautenberg, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senior Captains Kevin Daly and Ray Hage have done their best to motivate this young Wolfpack team. Every day these dedicated athletes are in the cafeteria or on the stairs, leading the team in warm-ups and drills, showing everyone what it takes to be strong. Coach Azer believes the most important thing for the success of any wrestling team is its dedication; Kevin and Ray have set the pace for the rest of the pack. When it comes to wrestling, they've certainly earned the respect of their teammates. Even these two wrestlers still have new things to learn, but their willingness to teach what they know and learn further themselves has elevated this team to a whole new level.

Kevin Daly at 6 feet, 130 pounds, has earned a 3-1 record in the DCL and earned second places at both the Wakefield and Canton tournaments. Ray Hage at 171 has earned a 4-0 record at the DCL matches. Ray started his competitive season late because of a shoulder injury, thus missing out on some tournament opportunities.

This is not to say that the captains are the only ones bringing success to this solid team; the

Wolfpack Wrestling squad has acquired many new faces over the course of the season in addition to the many dedicated veterans. Seniors Mike DiAngelis, Bayo Owolewa, Bart Jones and James Duane have all been encouraging models to this young team. Veteran Mike DiAngelis wrestles strongly at 135 and has earned a DCL record of 2-2, one of his losses being a tough break in overtime. He's worked real hard since his rookie year to become the competitive wrestler he is this year. Bayo has worked hard to get in shape this season and it's paid off. He is 2-2 for the DCL in the 189 and 215 weight classes and battled in the finals at the Canton tournament for second place. Bart competed well in tournaments before he was injured at a wrestling practice, and his return would help the pack a lot, but it's not likely. Dedicated James Duane has also proved to be an asset to this team as back up for the 171 and 189 slots with commendable performances at both the Wakefield and Lowell tournaments.

The juniors include Brian Farnkoff, Jason Allukian, Kevin MacDonald, Biggie(John Paul Bravo), and Dennis Itri.. Farnkoff, with a 2-3 record, has expressed a great passion for the sport. At our DCL quad meet. He had two tough matches but came back to wreck his next competitor. Jason has showed his strength in the 160 lbs. weight

leaves until Biggie gets to "lay the smack down," as Coach Azer would say. He's 3-0 in the DCL and placed third at both the Wakefield and Canton tournaments. Itri continues to show more dedication and aggressiveness as the season progresses, so the hard work will pay off.

This Wolfpack team would not be the same or have a future without the dedication of these young veterans: 10th grader Joey Webb, 9th graders Jose Valenzuela and Joe Jolly (125) as well as 8th grader Nate Jackson. Joey and Jose trade off between 112 lbs. and 119 lbs. with records of 3-2 and 1-2, respectively. "Nasty" Nate takes the lead off spot at 103 with a record of 3-1 and a 2nd place title from Wakefield. Rookies Brian Nowak and Dean Colpack have learned quickly how to become competitive wrestlers at 125 lbs. and 145 lbs. Nowak has had exemplary performances as a first year wrestler and has impressed many spectators.

The expanding JV team is also coming along, hoping to fill the big shoes of the varsity in the future. Veteran Kaitlyn Jolly and Karyn Rautenberg have been training with the team for competitive Girls' tournaments held at Brookline High. Kaitlyn participated in the January 16 meet and went 1-1 on the day. Both are planning on competing in the next one held on February 6.

The team has experienced success in some areas and disappointment in others, but everyone continues to improve. The team's DCL record is 2-2-1, but records do not incorporate all that happens at these meets. The loss to Lincoln-Sudbury on January 12 was a heart-breaker. This tough meet only led to more hard work, higher goals and determination, which is exactly what makes our Wolfpack Wrestling team a very competitive one. With the commendable senior leadership, the pack is sure to make a great run at sectionals (Feb. 11-12)



A hands on approach to wrestling.

Girls' Indoor Track Laps DCL Competition For Yet Another Title

By Greg Porter, II
STAFF WRITER

There are some things that always happen around Boston Latin during the winter months. This year is no exception. Snow is on the ground, the morning air is frigid, and the BLS Girls' Indoor Track team has won yet another Dual County League title.

That's right. Our Girls' Track team has now made it three seasons in a row finishing out on top in the DCL, and they did it this year without a loss at 9-0 on the season. "We have something special with this team," said coach Tony DaRocha, a former high school and college track star himself. "This year's girls' team is probably the most well rounded team I have ever coached. We have a chance to get points in almost every event, something we never have been able to do before."

Though it was a season of many firsts for the team, the co-captains Maryanne Porter, Mary Ellen Bingham, Sue Byrne and Rachel Racusen are definitely not new to the game. These seniors have been veterans of the team most of their careers at Latin. These girls not only bring their leadership to the track but also their tremendous talent. Those talents have earned Maryanne

a state qualifying time in the 600m, MaryEllen a state qualifying time in the 55m hurdles and long jump, Sue a qualifying time in the 2 mile and Rachel a season full of personal best times in the 1000m. Both Porter and Bingham also head up the record breaking 4 by 400m team also heading for the states. "Senior leadership has been a wonderful focal point for our success this year," said DaRocha. "All of our veterans have helped to keep the younger runners disciplined and focused."

Success for the team did not only come in the ranks of the seniors on this team. Junior Aisha Cort earned herself a place in the state meet for the 55m dash, while juniors Abra Mason and Jen Ruff also excelled in the dash. Junior

Tam Pham qualified for the states in the 600m. Perhaps the biggest and best surprise for the team

came in sophomore Bridget Butler, a rookie to the indoor team, who set a new team record for fastest time in the 1000m and qualified for the states in the 1 mile. Sophomore Meghan O'Conner also made a good impression on the team with her individually successful season.

The future also appears to be in good hands as the JV Girls' squad finished undefeated at 9-0 with some impressive individual performances on that level. "We accomplished our main goal for this season," said DaRocha. "We



Senior Sue Byrne is ahead of the field en route to a decisive win during the DCL Championship.

seventy or so girls." Regardless of their small size, the boys continued to work hard. Junior Chris Coletta also qualified for the states in the 300m, while senior Ross Forbes, junior John Perakis and sophomore Brandon Swanson have all worked hard to improve themselves.

"All of these



Left: Junior Chris Coletta leads the rest of the Pack into the turn during the DCL Championships at the Reggie Lewis Center. Right: Senior Mary Ellen Bingham soars high during a Long Jump event at the DCL Championships, which the Track Girls' won for the fifth consecutive year.



wanted to go undefeated and we did it. These girls did well not only as a team, but also individually with Mary Ellen being one of the top 3 in the long jump and with Sue coming back to form after a tough injury. Aisha is once again in the top 10 for sprinting and Bridget looks to soon become one of the elite distance runners in the state."

There is no doubt that this Girls' team is loaded with talent, but let's not forget the boys. Although the boys once again struggled this season as a team, individually they were hot. Senior Alex Bicn-Aime and sophomores Matt Simonini, Joan Duran and Jacques Ledbetter make up the boys 4 by 400m team which qualified for the states. Alex was also successful in other events qualifying for the states in the 300m while Joan and Jacques will be joining him there competing in the 600m.

"The Boys' team has done better this year versus years past," said DaRocha. "They are not struggling because they are bad, but it's just the lack of numbers in size that kills us. They have fifteen boys on the team compared to the

guys have talent," said DaRocha. "Our 4 by 400m team was a great example of their hard work to get better. Even though the team may struggle, these guys never give up."

What may seem like a small victory to others was a very big one to the Boys' team during their last meet of the season. The boys pulled out a win over Weston, their first win in two years, to finish the season a scorching 1-8.

Next for both the girls and the guys are the DCL and Class Championships. Most of them will then do it all over again for the spring track season, a season in which coach DaRocha hopes to see the continued success of the Girls' team and more of a turn-out and turn-around for the Boys' team.

Sports Spotlight



Manny Monteiro

By Timothy McDonald, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Walking down the halls of BLS, exchanging "high fives" with just about everyone he sees, Manny Monteiro exudes an enthusiasm and energy that is infectious. As comfortable in the halls with his peers as he is on the football field or the basketball court, Manny is a truly versatile athlete and a consummate team player.

This year has truly been Manny's time to shine. As a starter on the Wolfpack Football and Basketball teams, Manny has played a prominent role in the success of both of those teams with his tireless energy and commitment to winning.

Two years of experience on the football team prepared Manny well for his starting roles as an offensive flanker and cornerback. Providing offensive spark in the Wolfpack's juggernaut offense, Manny caught nearly 30 passes this year and accumulated nearly 700 yards receiving. Defensively, Manny served the Wolfpack's secondary well, often matching up against the opponent's best wide receivers.

"Manny was a major part of our success this year," says senior Mike Bell, center and noseguard on the football team. "He always played with 100% energy. He left it all out on the field."

Manny claims not to prefer either football or basketball, saying that his favorite sport "is football during football season, and basketball during basketball season." Whatever his preference is, Manny excels at both sports.

Leading this year's Varsity Basketball team as the starting shooting guard, Manny averages more than fifteen points per game and is an integral part of the Wolfpack offense. Just a few minutes into any game, Manny's range and quickness are soon apparent to his opponents. Whether burying the open three or dishing off after a drive into the lane, Manny is one of the lynch pins for the Wolfpack. He averages four assists per game. Manny does not, however, play for the great statistics and accolades. All of Manny's enthusiasm, energy, and hustle is directed towards the team's success on the gridiron or on the court.

"Manny is hard-working, he's all about the team, and he's a great team leader," says Thomas Imahiyero, small forward on the basketball team. As one of the tri-captains of the team, Manny's leadership plays an important role in the team's success.

Manny's most memorable day as a Boston Latin School athlete came last year in a basketball game versus Bedford. In front of a strong and supportive home crowd, the Wolfpack trailed Bedford by seventeen points at the half. Manny was thrilled at the stunning finish to the game, where Latin rallied behind the starters' strong shooting and the bench's defense to beat Bedford by ten points.

Manny contributes his leadership and his enthusiasm to all his sports' activities, but his most important contribution, he believes, is his energy. Manny prides himself on always hustling whether on the basketball court or on the football field.

Manny's contribution to BLS athletics has not gone unnoticed by his peers. For the 1999-2000 Yearbook, Manny was voted the Most Athletic Male in the Senior Class. When asked how he felt about his classmates' recognition, Manny replied, "It felt great to be chosen Most Athletic in the Senior class. It was an honor."

Whenever you see a man with a spring in his step, energetically slapping "high fives" with just about everyone in sight, say hello to Manuel Monteiro, the Most Athletic and one of the friendliest guys in the Senior Class.



Junior Aisha Cort takes the baton pass from Mary Ellen Bingham.

BLS's Winter Sports Collage

Boy's Hockey

	League Record	Overall Record
Boston Latin	9-0-0	16-1-0
Methuen	6-3-0	9-6-1
Andover	5-4-0	6-10-0
Haverhill	2-5-1	3-11-1
Westford Acad	2-7-0	5-12-1
Lincoln-Sudb	0-5-1	5-8-1

Girl's Hockey

	League Record	Overall Record
Boston Latin	10-0-0	12-1-0
Arlington	7-4-0	9-6-0
Lexington	5-2-3	8-3-3
Watertown	5-5-1	9-7-1
Newton North	4-5-1	6-8-1
Westwood	2-8-1	4-8-2
St. Bernard	2-8-1	4-10-1

Wrestling

	Record
Wayland	5-0-0
Weston	5-1-0
Lincoln-Sudb	5-1-0
Holliston	4-1-0
Boston Latin	2-2-1
Newton South	2-5-0
Westford Acad	1-4-2
Acton-Boxboro	1-5-1
Concord-Carl	0-6-0

Boy's Swimming

	Record
Weston	9-0
Acton-Boxboro	8-1
Wayland	7-2
Lincoln-Sudb	7-3
Concord-Carl	6-4
Westford Acad	5-5
Newton South	3-6
Hopkinton	1-6
Holliston	1-6
Bedford	1-6
Boston Latin	1-9

Boy's Basketball

	League Record	Overall Record
Newton South	13-1	15-2
Westford Acad	12-2	16-2
Acton-Boxboro	10-4	11-4
Concord-Carl	7-8	10-8
Wayland	6-8	10-8
Boston Latin	6-8	7-10
Bedford	5-9	7-10
Weston	3-12	4-14
Lincoln-Sudb	2-12	4-13

Girl's Basketball

	League Record	Overall Record
Concord-Carl	14-1	17-1
Westford Acad	14-1	16-2
Acton-Boxboro	9-5	11-5
Newton South	9-5	11-5
Weston	8-7	10-7
Boston Latin	5-9	6-11
Bedford	4-10	5-12
Lincoln-Sudb	2-12	4-14
Wayland	0-14	0-16



Photos by Tim McDonald.

Collage by Janet Nguyen.

Standings Current as of February 14, 2000.

Notes

Congratulations to the Girls' Track Team for finishing the season 9-0. By virtue of their undefeated season, the girls won the DCL regular season Championship and then won the DCL Championship meet on Febraury 5th.

The Boys' Track team finished the season at 1-8 and was competitive in the DCL Championship meet.

The Boys' Hockey team features one of the best scoring lines in the State. Senior winger Rickey Belmonte has a total of 32 points, with 17 goals and 15 assists. Manning the other wing is junior Nick Collins, who has tallied 14 goals and 21 assists for 35 points. Leading the MCV/DCL with 46 points, 24 goals and 22 assists, is junior center Brian Carthas.

The Boys' Swim Team, despite finishing 1-9 in the DCL, had a total record of 4-12.

Senior Swim Team Captain Mike Donahue has qualified for the States meet.



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Pons Privatus: The Campaign for the 21st Century

By Margaret Winikates, I
NEWS EDITOR

Few students thronged the halls on March 31, but the school was far from desolate. Gathered for the ceremonies initiating the Pons Privatus Capital Campaign were teachers, alumni, and respected leaders in the field of education.

The day began with a symposium to discuss the future of a classical education in the twenty-first century. Both Ms. Kelley (dressed in purple) and David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, delivered welcome addresses, and were followed by Jon Westling, president of Boston University, and Neil Rudenstine, president of Harvard University. President Rudenstine opened his speech with an apology. It is a well-known conceit of Latin School students that Harvard, founded a year later than BLS, was created for our graduates. President Rudenstine acknowledged this long-standing tradition between our two schools, and regretted the fact that in the many years since 1636, Harvard has been "struggling and failing" to catch up with us. Both men spoke of their visions for the continuity of education in the coming years.

Thomas Finneran, class of 1967 and Speaker of the House in the Massachusetts Legislature, was the moderator for the second piece of the symposium. During this panel discussion, several students asked questions of the speakers assembled, on the theme of continuity and change. Each participant had a period of time in which to discuss

the changing role of technology, government, new teaching techniques, and morality in schools. Several of the speakers were alumni, including Andrew Viterbi '52, Vice Chairman of Qualcomm, Father John Brooks '42, former president of Holy Cross, and Clifton Wharton '43, former president of Michigan State University. These men tempered their remarks with remi-

gym, which was gaily festooned with a gigantic banner bearing the school seal, and tables graced by purple and white bouquets. There the Graduates of the Year and the leadership donors were thanked for the impact they have had on the school.

Special thanks were directed to Mr. Schawbel, the alumni who has made possible the College Search Center and

Those of us in the audience who came to this school while Mr. Contompasis was headmaster were particularly pleased when Ms. Kelly announced that a fund has been established in his name to provide more money for faculty professional development and awards for students. We were even happier, though hardly surprised, when Joe Coffey II, delivered a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Menino declaring March 31, 2000, to be Michael Contompasis Appreciation Day in the city of Boston.

The official declaration of the beginning of the Capital Campaign followed to the accompaniment of several hundred balloons falling from the ceiling and a rousing rendition of the BLS Fight Song delivered by the Concert Band. (And finally, after smelling the food throughout the speeches, the audience was able to eat.)

The festivities did not end in the afternoon, but carried on into the evening at the black-tie banquet, where further entertainment was provided by the Jazz Band and an octet from members of the Concert Choir.

"The high point of the evening was the musical performance," said Ms. Russell, "and the alumni were impressed by the students, in all their roles as participants and performers. I believe the organizers of this event at the BLS Association were also well pleased, and the press coverage was good. The overall response was excellent. The morning was serious and interesting, and the evening was fun. Everyone is pleased."



PHOTOS BY CASEY GARR

Many memorable moments were enjoyed at the Capital Campaign Gala.

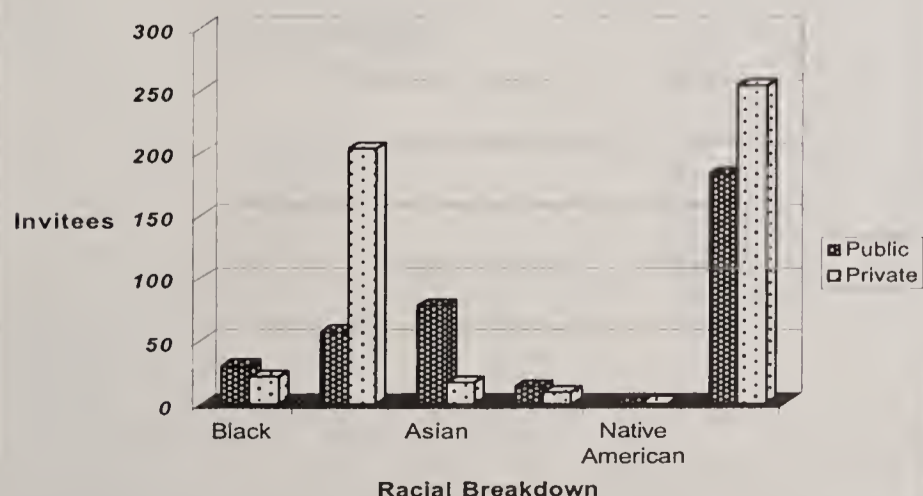
niscences of the days when they themselves walked these corridors. Other speakers were William Bulger and Margaret McKenna, president of Lesley College.

Once each member of the panel had a turn to speak, the discussion was opened into a question and answer session in which the audience, alumni, and teachers could participate. The group then adjourned for lunch to the upper

who has provided the funds for the Princeton Review. These were delivered on behalf of the junior and senior classes by Drudys Nichols, president of the senior class. "I met many wonderful people who inspired me, and now I know that BLS is forever... The people never stop giving, and I can follow that lead," she recounted, adding in a smiling aside that the food served at the luncheon was great, as well.

BLS Invitee Statistics

2000-2001 Class VI Invitees



Demographics for next year's entering classes of sixies and b-sies were recently released. On page 8, the Argo presents these statistics along with an explanation of what they mean to the BLS community.

Exam School Initiative

By James Duane, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 1999 the city of Boston and the Boston Public Schools (BPS) received a grant from the federal government to help increase admittance of public school children into the city's exam schools. With the money provided, the school committee began an outreach program called The Exam School Initiative. Under Director Karen Richardson and Project Coordinator Betsy Jaffe, the Initiative seeks to inform public elementary and their middle school students and parents about the option of exam schools. Another of the program's goals of the program is to increase the ISEE scores of public school students through preparation classes and summer courses.

"If you really love to learn,"

states the Initiative brochure, "even if means hard work, one of Boston's exam schools may be the place for you." This is the message that students and teachers from the exam schools try to convey to prospective families in group information sessions held across the city in the various zones. In these sessions, Ms. Richardson explained the Initiative to the group and delegates from each of the three exam schools, O'Bryant, Latin Academy and Latin School spoke about personal experiences and shared facts or thoughts about their school. At the first meeting, for example, Ms. Delaney, a guidance councilor from BLA, spoke about her school's mission statement and her individual role as a counselor. Ms. Stuppard from BLS spoke about the rigors of the academics at Latin. The stu-

INITIATIVE, page 8

Editor’s Note

Andrew Barr, II & Rebecca Tumposky, II
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Hello, and welcome to an exciting new era of the Argo. We are the Boston Latin School Argo’s first ever Co-Dictators-in-Chief. This doesn’t mean the Argo will run any differently, however. Instead, we’ll be alternating days of coming in at 5 AM, and pretending to like the janitors’ music,
But alas, there will be changes. First and foremost, we plan to bring a humidifier up to the Mac Lab, in case

any of you care. Goodbye Starbucks runs, hello...well, Starbucks runs. Who are we kidding? Anyways, on to the editorial changes we intend to make. We plan to cut the News section in half actually. It will be replaced by witty political cartoons, typos, and hardcore por-Oh! Just kidding. In all seriousness, we want to make the Argo a little more innovative, and well . . . relevant.
We plan to write the Editors’ Note in a similar format to this one: an editor rotation for each sentence. For example: “I wonder if ostriches fly.” “We also plan to add an editorial page.”

“Lev really shouldn’t have bleached his hair — it looks really stupid.” “We are going to have the most memorable graduation issue ever!” “He looks like Billy from Ally McBeal — who does he think he’s kidding?” “Megan wants to include a Food section as well.” “What’s my middle name again?” “Um, it’s still George.”
We also plan to completely change the font. This way the Argo will be even more visually stimulating! Don’t lie, you know you’re stimulated. Okay we’re done now. And so, here’s to a new look at the Argo!

Visit the Argo on the Internet at:
<<http://blsargo.cjb.net/>>.

Articles and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to <bls_argo@yahoo.com>, given to Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in 302, or deposited in the Argo basket on the counter in the Main Office.

All students who wish to apply for editorial positions for the 2000-2001 Argo should acquire an application from Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in 302.
Students who are interested in participating in the production of the Argo should watch the Daily Bulletin for the meetings of the individual departments.

Boston Latin School
Argo
Founded in 1970

- 1999 Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition Best Sports
- 1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award
- 1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award
- 1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award
- 1996 Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition 3rd Place
- 1994 1st Place Winner of New England Scholastic Press Association Competition

The Argo is a school-affiliated publication produced monthly by the students of Boston Latin School. It serves as a forum for the free exchange of news and ideas in the community of students, faculty, parents, and alumni. The expressions, suggestions, and contributions of all readers are encouraged through letters to the editor. The Argo reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.
The Argo is produced as an extracurricular activity. All typography and layout are done entirely by students using Macintosh computers running Microsoft Word and Adobe Page Maker.

Ask the Argo

Got a question you’re just dying to ask? Got a burning desire to know? Well, just ask the Argo! Our multitudes of trained editors won’t rest until we have the answer! Submit questions to any of our editors or email them to bls_argo@yahoo.com.

- Q: How come the pictures of Aaron McCormick and Mike Young were switched in the last issue?
A: Layout Czar Johnny B. (Whatever It Takes) Greene was momentarily distracted by bikini-clad Layout Mistress Andrea Alessi and accidentally reversed the pictures of the two nearly identical athletes.
- Q: Well, OK, but how about switching Cate Blanchett with Irene Kopitov?
A: You’re right. Cate never took such a glamorous picture in her life.
- Q: Why aren’t these questions ever funny?
A: I think the real question is: why aren’t you laughing?
- Q: Is the Argo having a “Guest Copy Editor” Contest wherein the person who spots the most mistakes in this issue wins a special mention in Issue 5?
A: Yes.
- Q: Who wants to be a millionaire?
A: Assistant Editor Andy George Barr was quoted as saying, “You know, I’m really getting sick of people throwing around buzzwords from this show like they’re being clever or something. Get a life, folks! Regis may have cool ties, but it’s time to move on from this series of hackneyed catch phrases.”
- Q: Is that your final answer?
A: Assistant Editor Andy George Barr: (incoherent muttering)
- Q: Why does my ID picture look funny?
A: It doesn’t -- you really look like that.
- Q: Seriously, everyone’s picture’s all yellow.
A: The administration refuses to confirm or deny reports of a jaundice outbreak at BLS. The Argo will continue to investigate.
- Q: Why did George W. Bush run for governor?
A: To provide tax breaks for Jonah Birch, Class II.
- Q: Would you like to use this opportunity to make a cruel joke at the expense of Rolo?
A: Sure. Thanks.
- Q: How come Rolo has such an intercom fetish?
A: Same reason he wears tapered pants -- it’s a Rolo thing, you wouldn’t understand.
- Q: What is the official name of this issue?
A: “The Boy Band Issue.”

Corrections:
Due to a reporting error in the article on the recent altercation behind BLS, Ms. Kirkpatrick’s comments were not correctly characterized. The comments came from an open letter to the BLS parents email list. The Argo apologizes for the error.

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News

Daffodil Days: Support For Cancer Research

By Jenny Chan, IV
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Signs of spring have shown up in March, and that includes the daffodils that were brought for the sake of raising money towards the cure for cancer.

Many people in the United States are diagnosed with the disease known as cancer. In order to survive,

and support for families who have lost loved ones due to the disease.

Ms. Hantout, one of the members of the modern language department, was in charge of the program at Boston Latin School. "Every day I saw a bunch of students flocked around her (Ms. Hantout). I could tell they were willing to participate in selling daffodils," said Mickaille Xavir-Navilyls, Ms. Hantout's student teacher.

This year Boston Latin



Students from all over the city enjoy the daffodils sold to them by the students of Boston Latin School for the ACA.

they must take their daily medication and visit their doctors frequently. Moreover, with cancer being one of the leading causes of death in our nation, many families are confronted with the grief of losing an important person in their lives.

However, those diagnosed are not alone. Volunteers have helped by donating money to cancer organizations such as the American Cancer Society. With these donations, the search for a cure is starting to become a reality.

During the month of March, the American Cancer Society sold daffodils – flowers of hope – to raise money towards cancer research, educational programming on the subject,

School students sold a record of about six thousand daffodils in all, adding up to a total of three thousand dollars raised. No other public school in the city of Boston sold as many. About two-thirds of the donations came from the sixties at the Annex, which pleases Ms. Hantout. She likes the fact that even the younger members of the student body cared about the program.

"I am proud of those students who participated in the selling of the daffodils. Thanks for the people who contributed," Ms. Hantout commented.

If you would like to take part in the search for a cure for cancer, you can call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit their Web site at <www.cancer.org>.

Reforming the Latin Curriculum

By Eugene Kreydin, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the morning of February 15th, 2000, all Classics teachers received a two-page stapled letter in their mailboxes, from Dr. Cohee, the head of the Ancient Languages Department. The letter contained a humble proposition for changes in the current Latin curriculum.

At BLS Latin is taught primarily in a three-year sequence of one Roman author each year starting in ninth grade: Caesar, Cicero, Vergil. This tradition started in mid-nineteenth century and has continued until the present. Although several authors were added to the list, the "triumvirate" still constitutes about ninety percent of the curriculum employed by the majority of Classics teachers. And now Dr. Cohee is saying it's time for change.

In his original proposition (no changes have been finalized as of yet), Dr. Cohee suggests that the number of required years of Latin be cut down from five to four, making all Ancient Languages electives for Classes II and I. He notes, "In my Latin IV class I see students struggling through Vergil ... I don't want them to hate Latin; I want the subject to be enjoyable." It is on such observations that Dr. Cohee bases his opinion.

Besides minimizing the number of Latin courses that would be required for graduation, Dr. Cohee proposed several other changes. Instead of being sequenced strictly by the Caesar-Cicero-Vergil pattern, the proposed yearly curriculum would consist of works written on certain subjects by different ancient authors. Each subject would be covered in one term. For example, during the first term Class III would read (in Latin of course) about the Roman household, in the second term the students would cover Roman education,

in the third birth, death, and burial, and so on.

Finally, Dr. Cohee wants to eliminate all Honors and APs for Latin up to eleventh grade. According to Dr. Cohee, "the removal [of students to advanced programs] deprives regular Latin sections of academic leadership by students in the classroom." He elaborates, "I think we should see to it that all BLS students participate in the same elementary and intermediate Latin training."

While most students agree that the Latin curriculum needs to be more flexible than it is now, there is great controversy over the changes in the Latin department itself. While some teachers are all for change and think that Dr. Cohee's plan is brilliant, others are deeply opposed to it. Mr. Tedeschi, who favors altering the curriculum, says that since Junior and Senior Latin will not be obligatory, naturally more students will be interested in the Ancient Studies. On the other hand, the more traditional teachers are worried about the Latin School standards. For example, some believe that since Latin is the principal subject at BLS, limiting it would bring about a watering down of standards. Taking Latin away would make BLS into "just another school." Also some Classics teachers believe that Dr. Cohee's plan sets a precedent, and after he retires, the new department head would be prone to cut down the required years of Latin even further.

Whether it's for or against the changes, as Ms. Shea told me, "...the teachers and the department head will have to make several compromises." When it's all said and done, and all the decisions are reached, Dr. Cohee's original proposition will certainly have some changes in it. If the Classics department does decide to alter the Latin curriculum, freshmen will be the first to get a taste of it, as the changes will only come into effect during the 2001-2002 school year.

International Showcase: Food, Music, and Fun

By Dana Xu, II
STAFF WRITER

The International Showcase was a production that accomplished all it set out to do; it demonstrated to the world that diversity is alive and well, and cherished and celebrated at the Boston Latin School.

The array of food was truly impressive. Both homemade and bought, the food ranged from Asian to Caribbean to the all-American brownie. The Flatbrush Park Leisure Group entertained with music as diverse as the food, from riveting funk to soothing jazz.

This three-hour program showcased everything it promised it would. First was the International Showcase rap, where three students managed the near impossible feat of rapping in Cambodian, Spanish, and Creole. Next, the BLS Show Choir performed the national anthem and the Beatles' song "In My Life." The Step Squad followed, heralding the excitement that was prevalent throughout the show.

Other sensational acts included the musical drama that was Beats 101, a combination of Rhythmology (similar to the people in Harvard Square and Downtown Crossing drawing music from average plastic buckets) and the Hip-Hop Club getting down with break-dancing prodigy Sherar Andalcio, and a Japanese fan dance performed by Vietnamese and Chinese students. Also unforgettable was the sight of BLS physics teacher Mr. Luis and his salsa partner



PHOTO BY CASEY GARR

Irish Step Dancers get jig-gy at the Fifth Annual International Showcase, a show that celebrates the diverse cultures that Boston Latin School encompasses.

Dr. Weisman, as well as the elaborate costumes and intricate footwork of top-ranking Irish step dancers who made Riverdance seem elementary. The spectrum of the spectacle was amazing.

Finally, after everything from foreign declamation to beautiful cultural dances, the Showcase ended with the best finale BLS has ever seen. After playing

Beethoven to perfection, the St. Mary's Steel Band went into a fast jig that beckoned the entire audience to climb up on stage to dance and celebrate the joy of diversity.

The Fifth Annual International Showcase was not perfect, but the imperfections faded in contrast to the totality of meaning and pure fun that the Showcase represented. Congratulations to all who participated.

BLS WEBEvent Calendar

By Bonnie Yu, III
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Several weeks ago, there were flyers everywhere announcing the BLS WEBEVENT CALENDAR. This web site provides students, parents, and teachers an easy way to find out about school activities. The calendar contains useful information about SAT deadlines, job opportunities, and so forth. As Mr. Powers said, "It is a great tool for people to share information about events in the school, and in doing that, it helps to build a closer community."

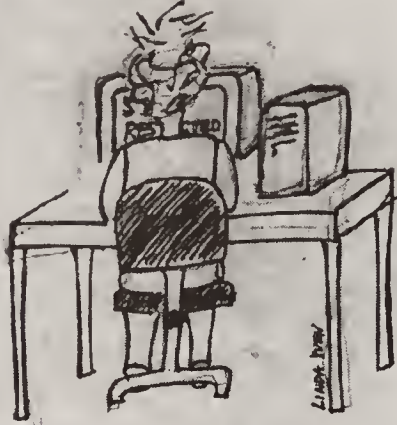
Students can easily find the location and the time of various after school events. For example, if students are not sure when the Spring String

Fling is going to take place, they can link to the "music" section. The calendar will give a short description of the event, and

where and when it will take place. They will also find directions to the events. Events are organized by day, week, and month.

The site is sponsored by the BLS Technology Committee, which consists of teachers, alumni, and parents. It is currently maintained by stu-

dents. If you are interested in contributing to the site, please contact Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero in room 302.



BLS WEBEVENT DIRECT URL: <<http://bls.boston.k12.ma.us/scripts/webevent/webevent.pl?cmd=openca&cal=cal6&>>
(This is also available as a link from www.bls.org)

BYCC Summer Jobs: Red Shirts In the Red

By Meghann McCarthy, I
STAFF WRITER

Over the summer many students will be calling the Hope Line to get a job with the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps. The Boston Youth Fund is a one-of-a-kind program that hired 5,339 youth in the City of Boston last summer. No other city in the world hires as many young adults. The Boston Youth Fund is a recipient of the Howland Award for ingenuity in youth initiatives. Currently, the program is expanding through an improved web site and Internet communication with employees.

Many people associate the B.Y.C.C. with a bunch of teenagers wearing gray shirts with rakes and brooms cleaning up city property; however, there are more facets to this program. Not all Red Shirt jobs involve "clean up" in fact, there are 103 non-profit community-based organizations, or C.B.O.s. C.B.O.s offer positions at the New England Aquarium, the Museum of Science, M.F.A., M.S.P.C.A, Franklin Park Zoo, Y.M.C.A, the Boys and Girls Club, the award-winning mural crew, the award-winning Caddy Scholars program at the George Wright Golf Course, and the Franklin Park Golf course.

What is so great about this program? Timothy P. McCarthy, the Executive Director of the Boston Youth Fund, believes that it is great because "the program hires kids from ages 14-17 who do not necessarily have experience and who

do not have connections, and that helps them to build resumes." Needless to say, this is key for building college applications and resumes, and acquiring references for future career opportunities.

Because of Governor Paul Cellucci's new budget, however, the pro-



Tim McCarthy, Director of The Boston Youth Fund, with his wife, Maureen, BLS alumna, Class of 1985

gram will lose two million dollars and hence about 2,000 jobs. This is a devastating hit, and hopefully Mayor Thomas M. Menino and his City Counselors, like BLS alumnus Scapicchio, a City Counselor from District I and a former Red Shirt, will help aid the program.

Boston Youth Organizing Project

By Andrew Binns, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Youth Organization Project is one of the most interesting and proactive clubs in the school. Although you may not be familiar with the club itself, I'm sure all of you reap the benefits of their hardwork. Last year the BYOP organized the initiative to extend the hours during which MBTA passes were in effect. Originally the passes were only valid until six o'clock, but they now work until eight. BYOP members had to work closely with the superintendent of schools, Dr. Thomas W. Payzant, and the head of the MBTA to accomplish this.

The Boston Youth Organization Project itself was founded in 1996 as the Roxbury Church Collaborative which then became BYOP and was sponsored by City Mission Society. The Organization serves as a forum for discussion of and action on student concerns. It is a great way for students to voice their concerns in matters that are important to them in the public schools. More importantly, they try to actually make

changes in the school environment. The BYOP has chapters in schools all over the city.

Earlier in the year, BYOP chapters citywide urged Superintendent Payzant to commit to an effort to keep restrooms cleaner and better supplied, an issue particularly close to the hearts of Latin School students. The school system will provide funds to keep our beloved lavatories better maintained and looking fine.

The BYOP conducted a survey of 1100 students to see which issues are most important to them. The results show that students want more access to guidance counselors, different food in the cafeteria, and more information about changes taking place at Boston Latin School. These are the issues which the BYOP will work on for the rest of the year.

If you are interested in joining this dynamic organization they meet every Monday in room 212 from 2:30-3:00. Munchkins will be served.

Samariteens of Boston

By Rebecca Tumposky, II
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Are you a good listener? Then you may be a good befriender. The Samariteens of Boston is a 24-hour befriending hotline for the suicidal and despairing. It is also a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of suicide by educating the community about effective prevention strategies.

The Samariteens is a free,

caller's mind, there is always a Samariteen willing to listen.

Volunteering at Samariteens is a big commitment, but also a very rewarding one. Training lasts about six weeks, and begins at 6 p.m. and lasts till 9 p.m. After finishing the training sessions, Samariteen volunteers are required to do one three-hour session taking calls per week.



confidential help line whose purpose is to provide peer counseling to teenagers who want to talk to someone. The line is staffed by teenage volunteers who are compassionate, understanding, and non-judgmental. They are trained to be supportive listeners.

Samariteen volunteers talk to people who are dealing with a variety of issues. A vast majority of the callers are not suicidal, but lonely, and need someone who is willing to listen. Callers discuss issues regarding depression, sexuality, sexual-orientation, friendship, relationships, drugs and alcohol, financial worries, school, work, family, and many other topics of concern. No matter what is on a

The community at Samariteens is a very caring and supportive one, and a feeling of camaraderie develops among the volunteers.

At times, befriending can be painful, frustrating, and emotionally draining, since many of the callers have very hard lives, and as a result have very difficult personalities. But volunteering to help someone who is going through a difficult time is a very worthwhile thing to do, and many callers are incredibly thankful.

The Samariteens 24-hour hotline numbers are (617) 247-0220 and 1-800-252-TEEN. For information about becoming a volunteer, call (617) 536-2460.

Celebrate Earth Day

By Mark Yuen, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

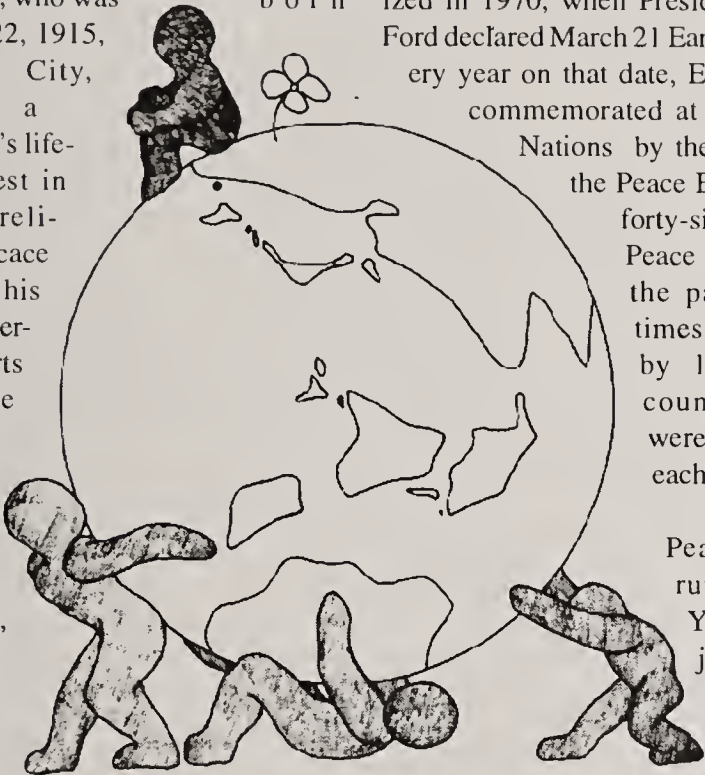
Earth Day is celebrated every year on March 21. It is a day when the entire world devotes some time to the preservation of peace and the Earth’s environment.

Earth Day was founded by John McConnell, who was born on March 22, 1915, in Davis City, Iowa. A lifelong interest in science, religion, and peace has led to his numerous personal efforts to alleviate human suffering. In 1995 he wrote the Earth Magna Charta, which declares the goals and policies of the Trustees. The core goals of these Trustees are to promote Peace, Justice, and the care of the Earth.

March 21 is the day of the vernal (spring) equinox, when the sun is directly above the equator, thereby making the length of the daytime equal to the length of the nighttime. This marks the onset of Spring, a day that is, as McConnell describes it “...a state of equilibrium throughout the Earth....the first day of the Spring, a day that historically has been celebrated by people of every creed and culture.” McConnell originally imagined Earth Day to be a day when all human beings can put aside their differences and come together in peace to celebrate and care for the Earth, our common bond.

McConnell’s dream was realized in 1970, when President Gerald Ford declared March 21 Earth Day. Every year on that date, Earth Day is commemorated at the United Nations by the ringing of the Peace Bell at eight forty-six p.m. The Peace Bell has, in the past, sometimes been rung by leaders of countries that were at war with each other. As the Peace Bell is rung in New York it is joined by other bells being rung in Vienna, in Russia, and in many other areas all over the world.

Over the years, many organizations have created their own “Earth Day” for the purposes of fundraising and expressing their own political views. For example, the organizers of “Environmental Teach-In” announced that April 22 would be “Earth Day.” NASA’s Goddard Space Center also sponsors an Earth Awareness program



Comic Review

By Andrew Barr, II
ASSISTANT EDITOR

It is late. The students are tired. Thick books filled with diabolical multiple-choice questions line the desks.

Joshua Lederman is on a roll. “The thing about these friggin’ functions is that they’re really easy,” he intones as his dozen or so students look at him skeptically. “They just look hard.” The problem consists of an imaginary function, which is denoted by a strange set of geometric shapes. This, quite simply, is unfair treatment for students who have been in the building for almost eleven hours.

Strangely enough, however, no one is bored. No one is complaining. In fact, many of these kids are having a great time.

Lederman, known to many of his pupils simply as The Josh, works for the Princeton Review, a service that has been providing preparation to BLS juniors for the SAT. He is not a full-time tutor. In fact, he’s currently enrolled in graduate school at Boston University. Lederman, a film major, is candid and urbane, and often resorts to cold, hard truths about the SAT. As he realizes the inherent difficulty of the functions problem, he recommends it as “a good candidate for skipping.”

His students learn interesting mnemonics like the “plumber’s butt” method for solving mean problems and the world-famous Cosmic Plug-In.

Of course, as much as his charges rave about his easy-going manner and sheer “macability,” as one junior put it, they also praise his instruction: score increases ranged from 30 to 110 points in one of his classes. “You know, I really loved his class, but at the same time I went up 100 points in math alone,” says Rose Costello, a junior enrolled in Josh’s Monday math-a-thon. “Even in my verbal class, where there’s a lot less joking around, my score didn’t go up that much.” Costello continues, “He really relates to us ... He’s got great stories, and everything.” Pressed for details, Costello would only say that they were unfit for a family newspaper.

Outside of the Princeton Review, Lederman enjoys playing with his band, Los Diablos. He is the frontman for this Irish funk band, which has performed at venues such as the Cambridge Brewing Company. Josh says that the moment he enjoys most is when “the kids really catch on fire.” Case in point: a student comes running up, announcing that she has nearly cracked the function problem. “I should probably go do that,” Josh grins. “Who’s got a pen?”

which celebrates Earth Day over the week of April 15th through the twenty-second. These other days, while no doubt representative of other worthy causes, are not to be confused with the actual Earth Day, March 21, the day celebrated by the United Nations, the day

chosen by John McConnell. Anyone wishing to read about John McConnell’s vision can read about it on his web page. Visit the Home Earth site at:
<www.earthsite.org>.

Action in The Walks For Life Club

By Alicia Tildsley, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Yellow ribbons have been popping up on jackets and backpacks all over school. Where do they come from? The yellow ribbons are part of a project currently being worked on by the Walks For Life Club. These ribbons are worn to promote awareness of teen suicide prevention. The club has been collecting generous donations from each class before school, and has raised a charitable sum for this

worthy cause. The money raised goes to The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program and buys cards that will be distributed in school. These cards offer a hotline number and hope to those who are depressed or feeling alone in their struggle. This is an important issue after the tragic suicide of Zachary Tripp, a senior and former student body president at Phillips Academy in Andover. The goal of the Walks For Life Club, and of the project, is for people nationwide to wear the ribbons in hopes that troubled students will know that there are those who want to help.

This is just one of the Walks For Life Club’s upcoming activities. With spring rapidly approaching, the club will soon be involved in a number of local walks, such as the Walk For Hunger on May 5th and the MS Walk on April 8th and 9th. Besides being good exercise, these functions provide an opportunity to join with other students and contribute to foundations that need your help to make a difference. For more information on this humanitarian club, please contact Mikki in G6 or Alicia in G4.

Tolerance and Respect Committee

By Luly Iliev, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the last couple of years at Boston Latin School, there have been some incidents caused by disrespect and ignorance among students. This year, a concerned parent, Mr. Osinubi, decided to take action. Bringing together students, teachers, and parents, he founded the Tolerance and Respect Committee, which aims to teach members of the school community and their families about tolerance, a topic of increasing importance in our society today. Teachers and other faculty members from the Annex as well as the main building have met with students from different classes to find a way to resolve these problems.

All students, teachers, and parents wishing to attend are welcome. The committee meets every other Thursday in room 204 from 3:00 to 4:00. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 20th. Flyers will be posted around school so that faculty members and the student body will have a chance to find out more about the committee. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Luly Iliev from homeroom 236.

Summer Opportunities

By Mimi Lai, III and Bonnie Yu, III
STAFF WRITER AND EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Summer is fast approaching and it’s time to start planning something productive and fun to do. Participation in summer internships, programs, jobs, and volunteering are great ways to add work experience to resumes. They also help build responsibility and character, and add a little cash into the bank or add up community service hours. They give students a chance to dabble in things they have never done before or know they could. A person who participates in a summer literary workshop might find that he or she has an innate talent for writing short stories. A person who has never thought twice about saving the earth, might think differently after par-

ticipating in an environmental program. So it’s highly recommended that students should seriously consider taking on a summer opportunity. Seeing Mr. Dervan in the PIC office in room 311 is a good place to start.

Arts

- Arts In Progress (Media Arts Camp); program; ages 10-15; length early Jul-Aug; hrs 9AM-2:30PM, Mon-Fri; deadline mid-Jun; contact 524-1160
- Boston Architectural Center (Center Summer Academy); program; entering grades 10-12; Jul 1—Aug 11; deadline May 31; contact 585-0101
- Community Music Center; internship; ages 15-17; length Jun 26-Jul 21; hrs 9AM-2PM, Mon-Fri; Lucy Joan Sollogub 482-7494
- Boston Photo Collaborative (Project

Image 2000); internship; *learn basic photography and darkroom skills; see Mr. Dervan

- Museum of Fine Arts (Art Classes and Workshops); ages 12-18; length Jul 11-Aug 24; hrs 10:15-12:15 or 1:30-3:30, Tues & Thurs; mail in registration begins Jun 5, contact 369-3300
- The Writers’ Circle of the Boston Writing Project; entering grade 9-12; session 1 Jul 10-27, session 2, Jul 31-Aug 17; hrs noon-4PM, Mon-Thurs; deadline May 31; contact Mrs. O’Malley 846-2254
- Writers in Residence (The Wang Center) entering grades 9-12; length Aug 7-17, deadline Jun 30; contact Dan Gonzalez 482-9393x259

French Students Visit Quebec

By Lee J. Guo, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Quebec trip was surely a chance of a lifetime for those who participated. Although the trip was not long, it was very memorable. The schedule was packed with exciting activities and magnificent tourist attractions.

On the first day Mrs. Brun and the students arrived at Château Frontenac and had an excellent French styled breakfast consisting of French pastry, chocolate bread, scrambled eggs, pancakes, and exotic fruits. After breakfast the group had a little French immersion with fellow students from Quebec. Together they played French Pictionary, and another word game called "Rebuses." After having lunch with their newfound French-speaking friends, they played a game of scavenger hunt around the city of Old Quebec (Vieux Quebec) and shopped around the city. As the day came to a close the group parted with the French students and went to a French restaurant named "Café Suisse" for dinner. Before heading back to the Radisson everyone had a little chance to learn and enjoy traditional Quebec music.

The next day was equally packed with exciting French culture and adventure. The first stop was Musée du Fort where they learned about Champlain who founded Quebec in 1608. Shopping at Les Galeries de la Capitale was not just a typical day at the mall. This gigantic mall is about five times as large as the Copley Mall distributed through four floors. It has about

300 stores, a movie theater and an indoor skating rink all under one roof. The shops are very different than American stores in culture and in style. After a fun day at the mall, the group visited Le Chemin du Ray where maple syrup is made. Dinner took place there that night, and maple syrup abundantly flowed onto all sorts of food. The group wrapped up the night with a costume workshop where they learned about the clothing style of 17th and 18th century Quebec before returning to the Radisson.

The group visited historical sites on the third day. They visited a nun's academie and a monument for James Wolfe, a British general who captured Quebec in the French and Indian War. The rest of the day was spent at Stoneham Mountain ski resort. After dinner at La Vieille Maison du Spaghetti everyone dressed up to go to Le Bistro Discothèque, a French disco, where they boogied down into the wee hours of the morning. The group spent their last day visiting Montmorency Fall, the highest waterfall in Quebec. They also visited a huge church dedicated to Sainte Anne at Beaupré Coast. By the time the group arrived home, they had nearly collapsed from exhaustion. According to Yiting Jin, Class IV, "Everyone was worn out, but it was definitely worth it."

Outreach Program at the Forsyth Institute

By Mimi Lai, III
STAFF WRITER

The Forsyth Institute, located on the Fenway, is a school and research facility that focuses on oral and dental studies. It also has an outreach program geared toward giving Boston high school students a look into what it might be like to pursue a career in medical research. Under the direction of Forsyth's Dr. M. Taubman and Mary-Kathleen Deloge, the program offers a four hour workshop in February and eight-week-long paid internships during the summer.

The workshop includes an introduction to Forsyth's goals, a guided tour of the facilities, and a visit to a laboratories of the student's choice. In the latter, the student might be asked to participate in a demonstration that pertains to that department's field of research. Several students from Dr. Yu and Mrs. Philips's science classes took part in the workshop last February, and many of them found it very insightful and interesting.

The workshop itself is actually a prelude for the internships. During the course of the summer, several

selected students from grades 9 to 12 are paired up with mentors from different laboratory departments, such as biomineralization, immunology, and craniology. The mentors teach their mentees laboratory procedures, which often include the sophisticated procedures of cloning, polymerase chain reaction, and bacterial culturing. The student mentees also get opportunities to work on their own projects, which always involve the latest research. In fact, all of the BLS students who participated in the internship program last summer were selected to present their experiments at the school science fair.

"I thought the internship was a great experience," said one of last year's interns. "I got a chance to do work that was both challenging and exciting. It put science in a whole new context for me."

One must apply and be selected to be a Forsyth intern. For more information, see Mr. Dervan in the PIC office or contact Dr. Yu or Mrs. Phillips.

"... I got a chance to do work that was both challenging and exciting. It put science in a whole new context ..."

Continuing Chaos in Construction

By Rose Costello, II
STAFF WRITER

News about the construction of the new visual and performing arts wing is both good and bad. The good news is that the new building is expected to be completed by August fifteenth, which would mean we could use it next year. The bad news is they are running behind schedule. The President of Suffolk construction company has promised Headmaster Kelley that the building will be completed by August fifteenth and every effort is being made to ensure that this deadline is met. If it is not, the entire project may be set back as much as a year. They have increased manpower on the job significantly and where there

used to be one project manager there are now six.

There have been troubles with construction inside the existing building as well. Construction of the first floor is also expected to be completed by August 15. Currently electric and communication lines are being installed. The first floor construction, however, has been slowed down slightly because of problems with the construction done in the basement during the last phase. Mr. Flynn has taken issue with the quality of the installation of many doors, which is a large part of the project. Suffolk plans to replace five of these doors. Mr. Flynn thinks that more than five need to be replaced. The repairs that have been made on the doors, although they are of excellent workmanship, do not satisfy the careful aesthetic eye of Mr. Flynn. He "hopes that greater care will be taken throughout the building" because of his fastidiousness concerning the door frames.

Mr. Flynn gave me a very good idea of what this new building will look like. There will be lobbies in both the front

and back of the building with showcase areas. The cafeteria, which will be on the ground floor is going to be a "very, very beautiful room". The floor will not be vinyl tile like the remodeled class rooms. It will be a tile that looks a lot like the terrazzo on the corridor floors. This will not only be more aesthetically pleasing, it will also be more durable. On the back wall of the cafeteria there will be a medallion, 8 ft. in diameter of Romulus and Remus (the babies with the wolf). There will be all new furniture in the cafeteria (bye, bye disgusting, gum-covered tables) and throughout the new and remodeled buildings. The first floor will have music rooms and a black-box theatre. There will be a room for band practices and for vocals with built in leveled floors (no more setting up risers!). There will also be practice rooms and storage space for instruments. The second floor will have five rooms for any form of art. There will be a kiln and wheel for pottery, a darkroom for photography, and much more. Mr. Flynn expects that with these new facilities the art and music programs will grow: first in the number of classes offered and eventually in staff.

Overall Mr. Flynn feels pretty good about the project. "I think that we have the attention of the construction company." With these exciting plans and the hard work and diligence of so many people this ought to be a wonderful new building.



As you can see, construction at BLS is going well.

Summer

Continued from Page 5

- Athletics
- Community Rowing Inc.; program; ages 12-18; length Apr 1-Oct 31; deadline ASAP 1st come, 1st serve; contact 782-9091
 - National Youth Sports Program; ages 10-16; length Jul 3-Aug 4; hrs 8AM-1PM, Mon-Fri; deadline ASAP; contact Rodney Hughes 287-7825
- Health / Science
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (The Volunteer Health Corps); volunteer; ages 14-18; length Jul 5-Aug 11; hrs 9AM-3PM, Mon-Fri; deadline Jun 23; contact Rebecca Tremble 667-3026
 - Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC); stipend; grades 8-11; length Jul 6-Aug 25; hrs 8AM-4PM, Mon-Fri; deadline May 11; contact 534-5258, BAHEC@bphc.org
 - Boston University (Citylab Biotechnology Camp); program; entering grades 10-12; length Aug 7-11; hrs 9AM-3PM; deadline Jun 15; contact Don DeRosa 638-5629, donder@bu.edu
 - Forsyth Institute; internship; entering grades 10-12; Jul-Aug (8 wks); hrs 9AM-5PM, Mon-Fri; deadline beginning May; see Mr. Dervan or Mrs. Phillips

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES, page 7

Local Strides on the Historic Human Genome Project

By Lydia Brooks, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

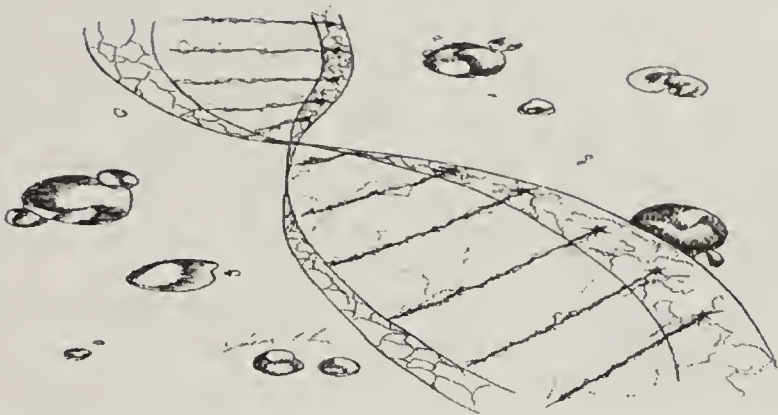
Several Boston Latin School students spent this past February vacation learning about the Human Genome Project at MIT's Whitehead Institute. The Whitehead Institute was holding its annual three-day Winter Lecture Series for high school students.

The Human Genome Project entails in-depth research and exploration of the human gene and consequently the genome, a part of the human gene. The goal of the research is to map as many illness-causing "trigger" genes as possible and to establish preventative techniques in medicine.

More than two hundred students from schools around Massachusetts gathered in the McGovern auditorium. Over the next few days, the students would be immersed into the world of The Whitehead Institute and its laboratories.

On the first day, Whitehead fellow Dr. George Daley gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the Human Genome Project and how it will affect the so-

ciety of the future. He presented issues such as the ethics concerning parents' knowing illnesses that their child might have and if it should be their choice to change the child's genes or not. This idea gave way to profound ethical issues that this fast-moving technological society must face.



The double helix, the mysteries of which are quickly being revealed by scientists at the Whithead Institute.

Following the lecture, students were separated into groups and led on tours. One tour of a Whitehead lab where much of the Human Genome Project

research is being done gave students the chance to see centrifuges and state-of-the-art computers tracking the human genome. Another tour of a biotech firm gave students a firsthand look at the business aspect of the Human Genome Project.

The next morning, Dr. Dennis Ausiello, chief of medical services at MGH, led a presentation on cystic fibrosis. Alluding to the previous lecture, Dr. Ausiello discussed how future genetic engineering of the human genome could prevent cystic fibrosis in the future.

On the third day, Dr. Pamela Sklar from the Whitehead/MIT Center for Genome Research discussed genomic technologies and how they will change scientists' approaches to research.

The three-day long event did not contain only lectures and discussions; students had the opportunity to meet with Whitehead research scientists.

At the program's end, students left with Whitehead Winter Lecture Series 2000 T-shirts, along with new outlooks on the Human Genome Project and the future of genetic engineering.

Junior Classical League Comes to Boston Latin

By Hang Do, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Salvete omnes!

This is the first year that Boston Latin School has become a chapter of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League, and thus a chapter of the National JCL. NJCL is the country's largest academic organization, and was founded in 1939. It is an organization dedicated to the classical studies, especially Roman and Greek history, language, culture, and mythology. There are annual statewide activities where the theme is to celebrate and compete in classical studies at national conventions.

The most active part of the NJCL is "certamen," meaning "contest" in Latin. In certamen, schools compete in the categories of Latin, mythology, history, and daily Roman life amongst each other in teams of four. The first round is the Preliminary Competition. The top three schools at this competition head for the State Convention. The winner at the State Convention repre-

sents Massachusetts to compete with other states at the national level. Although this is the first year for BLS, we successfully made the top three in both the Lower and Advanced divisions. Reports Dr. Cohee, "Our Lower level demolished everyone, taking first place; our Advanced team secured third place." Now we are onto the State Convention on May 13th at Longmeadow!

To promote the classics spirit in BLS, the JCL has taken part in various activities, including participating in the International Showcase and contributing to the Argo. We want to demonstrate to both our peers and to other schools the value of a classical education.

Please come join us as we celebrate Latin, mythology, daily life, and Roman history! And remember, "Latin is not dead; it's just declined!" If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at <MasJCLer@aol.com>.

BLS Get Student IDs



As most of you may know, Latin School has recently issued photographic student identification cards, using a system from IDResources. The cards are a first step in an effort to improve security at Latin School, and can be used for purposes such as banking and identification for College Board Testing. Many thanks to the parents, especially Andrea Garr, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, who organized the photographing of all 2304 students. Thanks also to the studly model shown above. Who says IDs can't look sexy?

MASSPEP Goes to Logan Airport

By Lydia Brooks, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Professional Day, several members of the Astronautics Space & Aeronautics Club had the opportunity to visit Logan International Airport through MassPort's educational tour program.

What ensued gave students a bird's eye view of Logan International Airport, U.S. Customs and Immigration, and Air Traffic control.

The tour group was first driven past Logan's Hilton Hotel and the overpassing roads leading to Logan's many gates.

Logan is currently investing millions of dollars into constructing more roads leading to the airport. These roads might have as much impact as the Big Dig in terms of getting into and out of the airport easily and quickly.

Then students were led to a vacant US Customs gate and the International/Immigration gate. The tour guide told the students about the ups and downs of customs and immigration. Many pre-cautions must be taken when admitting immigrants through the gates. Regulations range from unpermissible food items being

brought across the American border to taxing items purchased overseas in the States.

An airplane tour was next for the group. "This Delta aircraft normally serves as a passenger overflow plane for frequent Boston-New York connections," the tour guide informed the group. This airliner, reminiscent to of today's "user-friendly" airliners, contained, among other novelties, an on-board telephone with an Internet connection. The very cramped cockpit is usually occupied by up to three people: the pilot and his assistants.

Next the students went to Air Traffic Control. After listening in on an air traffic control operator guiding a pilot in for landing, students went down to the Radar portion of the traffic control tour. This part of air traffic control controls International flights and their safe departures and arrivals. The Radar portion of Air Traffic Control controls all departing and arriving international flights, whereas Air Traffic Control guides incoming planes that are a fixed radius from Logan. Overall, it was a high-flying day.

Summer Opportunities

Continued from Page 6

- Museum of Science; volunteer; commitment minimum 100 hrs; contact 589-0380 volunteer1@mos.org
- PROMYS/Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists; program; entering grades 10-12; length Jul 2-Aug 12; deadline Jun 1; contact 353-2563 promys@math.bu.edu

History

- U.S.S. Constitution Museum (Summer Tour Guides); job; see Mr. Dervan.
- Volunteer Summer Tour Guide Pro-

gram at the State House; volunteer; ages 14-18; six hrs a week; *scholarships available for participating seniors; see Mr. Dervan.

Leadership

- Bentley College (Leadership Institute); program; entering grades 11-12; length Jul 9-14; deadline Jul 4; contact Richard Frese 781-891-2695
- The City School (Summer Leadership Program); entering grades 9-12; length Jun 26-Aug 15; hrs 9AM-5PM, Mon-Fri; deadlines May 18 & Jun 1; contact Todd Fry 542-CITY

Rogue Russian Uranium

By Johnathan Yee, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Cold War is over, but the ever-present specter of nuclear attack is not gone yet. Russia, a country formerly one of the pre-eminent superpowers in the world and the chief rival of the US, has since 1991 imploded both economically and militarily. The Russian armed forces, once feared throughout the world, have degenerated into a poorly organized, sparsely paid group of teenage recruits and corrupt officers. Most disturbing of all, Russia's massive stockpiles of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium, ores ideal for constructing nuclear weapons, have gone virtually unguarded for the past ten years. With Russia's economy in complete free fall from 1997-1999, funding for security and military readiness in general have dried up. Disgruntled soldiers, angered at having their pay withheld from them

for months on end, have quit their positions and left many Cold War weapons-ore stockpiles guarded by very few men, often inexperienced and possibly corrupt ones.

The prospect of high-grade nuclear material sitting unprotected for months on end, in a country as disorganized and loosely patrolled as Russia, is obviously not good. Many US officials fear that countries suspected of working on nuclear weap-

ons programs, such as Iran or North Korea, could have easily obtained weapons ore from Russia. Ever worse is the possibility of a radical terrorist group acquiring uranium to produce their own nuclear weapons. So what is being done about this? The US has stopped short of giving direct monetary assistance to Russia, but has urged it to tighten security around its nuclear facilities. However, the damage may already have been done.



Russian Tuskagan Tank

The U.S. and Colombia

By James Duane, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Colombia produced 520 metric tons of cocaine last year, opium-poppy production is up 23% from last year, and Colombian drugs now account for 80% of cocaine and heroin entering the US (*Time*, March 6, 2000). These and other new statistics released by Drug Czar Barry McCafferty have prompted the US government to pump \$1.6 billion dollars over the next two years into the South American country whose economy hasn't been this poor since the 1930's. Approximately three-fourths of that money will be used for military hardware and training. While this latest effort may bear some similarities to other US military efforts in tropical jungle countries, a recent issue of *The Economist* reassured that "this is not Vietnam, nor will it become so."

Is this expensive effort worth it? Those opposed to the project cite that

previous Colombian presidents have accepted contributions from known drug traffickers. It is also established that the Colombian army employs thugs who are, according to Human Right Watch, "responsible for gross human rights violations."

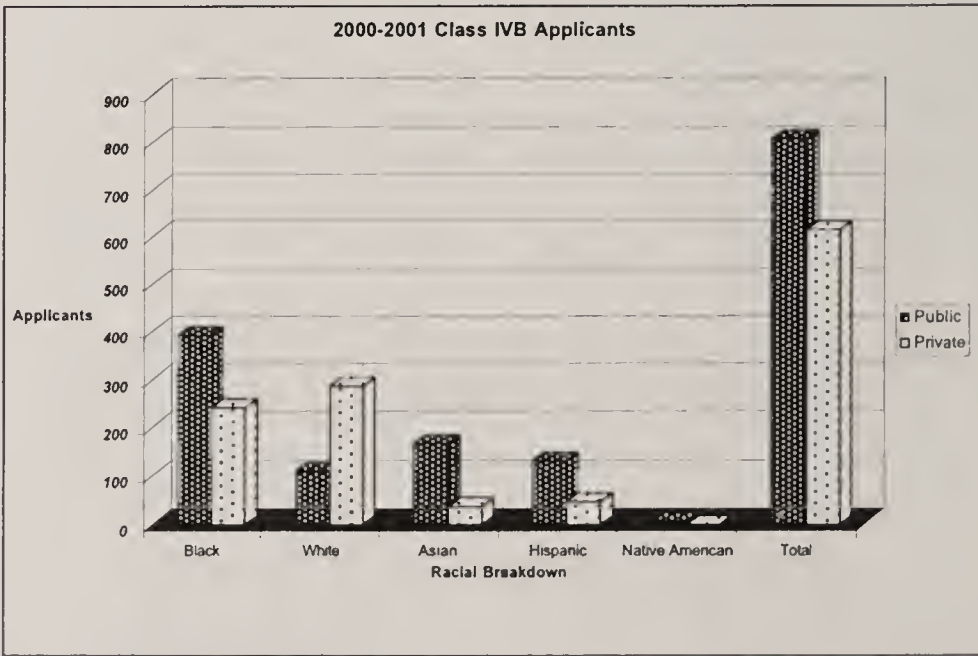
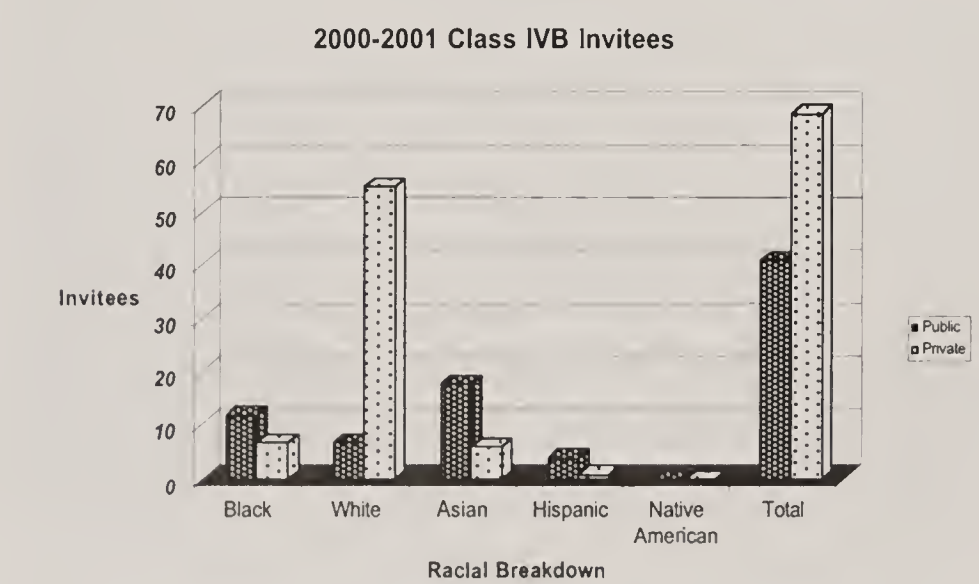
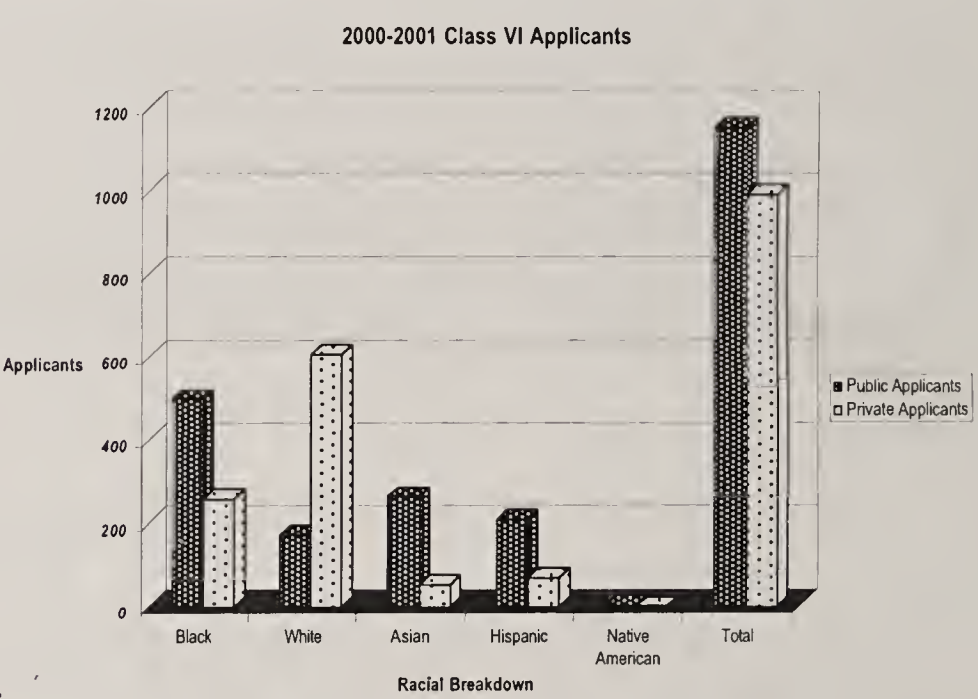
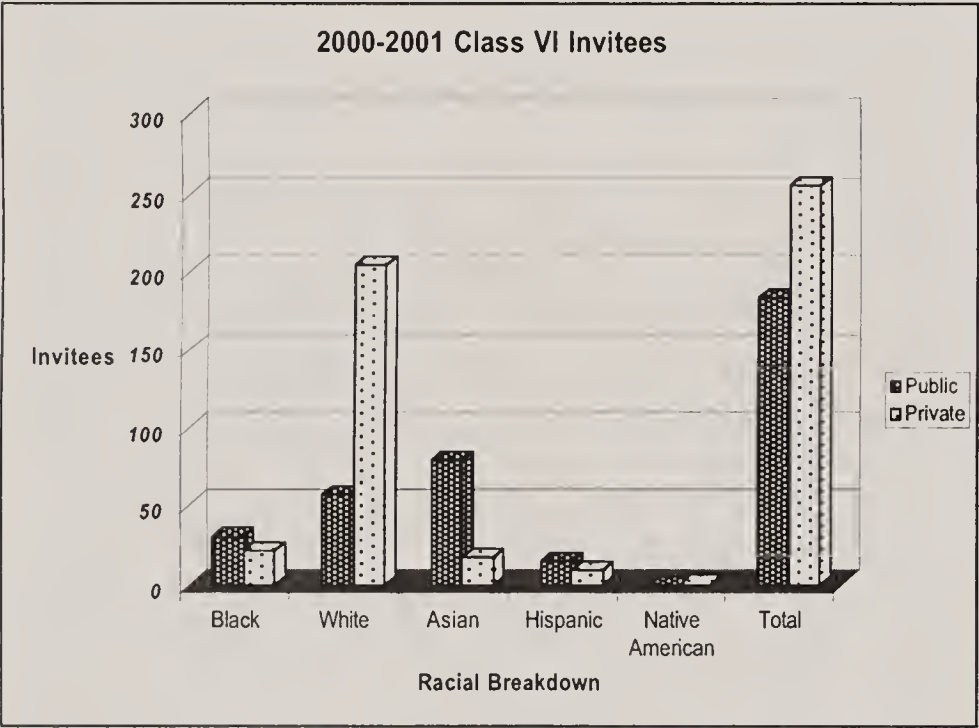
Arguments for increased US action include the success in the mid-1990's of breaking up the Cali and Medellin cartels. Current President Andres Pastrana believes that US aid is necessary not only to fight drugs and the paramilitary groups (such as FARC) that are better trained and armed than his troops, but also to shore up

the economy. Evidently the US agrees, as the current plan will require President Clinton's successor to send hundreds of millions of new dollars in later years. Time will tell which side is correct.

With killing, crumbling economies, and human rights violations from the Balkans to Southeast Asia to the Caucasus, the world is a very volatile place. For more information join War 101. Contact Alexi in 334.



Opium Poppy grown in Colombia has been seized in the US more frequently this year.



New Invitees Demographics Released

By Andrew Barr, II
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The makeup of the classes of 2004 and 2006 will be somewhat different from preceding classes because of recent court decision that forced the elimination of race-based quotas. How would the balance of the classes be changed, now that entrance is based solely on test scores and grades? Above, the Argo has printed graphical representations of the racial break-

downs of the new classes. The most numerous group, in both Class VI and Class IVB, is that comprised of white students coming from private schools. This stands in contrast to the largest group of applicants, comprised of African-American students in Boston public schools. Overall, the trend seems to be that students in private schools are at an advantage when it comes to gaining entrance to BLS. Out of 500 black, public school applicants, only 31, or about 6.2%, were accepted. Of the 607 white, private school applicants, however, 205 were selected - over 33.7%. The differ-

ence is just as exaggerated among b-sies. Only 3% of black, public school students were accepted, as opposed to 19% of white, private school applicants. What are we to make of these numbers? Senior Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero, an active member of the Boston School Committee, said, "These reports underscore the importance of the work being done by the Exam School Initiative to boost enrollment among public school students and in the minority community." It remains to be seen how the Classes of 2004 and 2006 will grow in this environment.

Forum

GrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrR

By Gina Cappellano, I
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

By Robert Orthman, I
SPORTS EDITOR

There comes a time in every young girl's adolescence when she must make a choice that will affect the rest of her life. The day when she chooses to devote the rest of her years in worship of the true divinities, or goes down the dark path in servitude of false idols. Put in more simple terms, Backstreet or *NSYNC? Over the past few years, many members of the Argo editorial staff have sworn alliance to those "larger than life" cuties known as the Backstreet Boys. For most, the decision is simple. Something instinctual, almost Zen-like, makes the decision for them, leading them on an entertaining journey towards happiness. However, for those who have somehow been blocked from this enlightenment, and for those who have followed the wrong path, there is still hope. This article will serve as a spiritual guide to all the glories of Backstreet and the shame of Sync. This article will actually make valid points, unlike the article of my adversary, who had to resort to petty jokes concerning the noble Argo staff in his defense of *NSYNC.

The first and perhaps most important point that I will make is that the Backstreet Boys are actually good-looking. Each member of the Backstreet Boys is described by one word, and one word only - FINE. Kevin even walked the runways as a model. All *NSYNC has to offer is a cheap version of Ryan Phillippe in Justin Timberlake. And do I really have to mention the gorgeous braids that Chris sported for over a year? They were so attractive - especially in pigtail form. I guess that was his attempt at fitting in with the 3-year-olds. He had to resort to resembling his fans to keep them. The Backstreet Boys have too much dignity as artists to resort to this. The Backstreet Boys are utterly swoonable in a boy next door sort of way.

Next, have we all forgotten who came first in this new wave of boy bands? That's right, it was my beloved Backstreet Boys. They were making records and gaining fans as *NSYNC struggled to even get a deal. The only reason that *NSYNC has had any success at all is because they rode in on the tails of BSB. Without the success of the Boys, *NSYNC would simply not exist. That's right. I said it - *NSYNC is nothing but a cheap Backstreet knock-off. Suck it up, girls. You know it's the truth.

The Boys, in all their glory, have managed to do something that the members of *NSYNC can only dream about - they have managed to cross every gender and culture line there is in the world of music. Last summer was the first summer that I did not have to beg my guy friends to change the channel when a pop song came on. Boys and girls alike bopped their heads to the beat of "I Want It That Way." In fact, they did more than bop their heads, they sang out loud. And it didn't end there. I recently walked into a friends house, the home of a Pearl Jam-loving, boy band-hating, angry young male, to hear the sweet rhythms of "Larger Than Life" wafting through the house. This same young male cried out in disgust when the whining voices of *NSYNC came onto the radio in the form of "Bye, Bye, Bye" - a song that *NSYNC has no right to sing, seeing as they will never be saying "bye, bye, bye" to any female, as they will not be saying "hi, hi, hi" to any female.

This is an obvious no-brainer. *NSYNC simply doesn't compare - even when our favorite dictator was the lead singer. Never will Justin, Lance, JC, Chris, and Joey come out of the shadow of the all-mighty Nick, Kevin, Brian, Howie, and AJ. How could they? Rob likes them.

Note: Gina Cappellano would like to thank the resourceful Neala Brown for invaluable assistance and "research" on the topic.

Battle of the "Bands":
Backstreet Boys
VS.
*NSYNC



FILE PHOTO

Oh my gosh!! It's *NSYNC!!! These are common cries in America today. Millions of shrieking girls worship JC, Justin, Joey, Chris, and Lance. Why does this phenomenon exist in a culture so saturated by the so-called "boy bands?" Well, it is quite simple - *NSYNC Rules!!!

Argo Sports Editor (and closet *NSYNC fan) Tim McDonald summed up this group with one simple hyphenated word: "Super-dee-doooper!" Assistant Layout Editor Johnny B. Greene is a huge *NSYNC fan. (His room is littered with Justin Timberlake posters.) He loves to sit in the dark and listen to their hit "I Drive Myself Crazy" while thinking about how a certain Argo Layout Editor drives *him* crazy. Believe me, as evidenced by these two rabid fans, *NSYNC mania has hit even the Argo. Little Emperor Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero has even been spotted singing "Bye Bye Bye" to himself as he oversees our daily operation.

Give me a break with this Backstreet Boys stuff. What are they, like, 30? We are talking about practically old men getting their kicks out of singing to little teenyboppers. These guys should be arrested. Our boys from *NSYNC are fresh out of high school and can relate to today's young, misguided, I mean, mischievous girls. Some of the Backstreet Boys are even getting married soon. I know that if I were a parent I would not trust them with my little daughters.

What other group could sell over a million CD's in one day? Oh yeah, that's right, our boys from *NSYNC. *NSYNC is a group that cares. Their hits like "Tearin Up My Heart" have been there for people in their times of need. Where are the Backstreet Boys for their fans? Producing songs like "Larger Than Life," obviously showing how conceited they are. They only care about their fans when they are purchasing their CDs and when they are coming backstage to see them, if you know what I mean.

Your Forum hero (I am talking about myself) recently received a letter from an interested *NSYNC fan asking this question: "Rob, is there any truth to the rumor that *NSYNC at one time had six members?" Well, Vice-President Gore, this is in fact true. In fact, that sixth member has been in our midst for the last six years, withholding his secret. Well, your faithful scribe has now arrived on his golden chariot to reveal this man's secret. Our very own Dictator-in-Chief, Rolo, was the sixth member of *NSYNC. He has some of the sweetest dance moves this side of Lake Erie, and boy can he sing. Unfortunately, he was dropped from the group when they realized the name "ONSYNC" was lame and made no sense. Nevertheless, our intrepid editor marches on ... (Quick note: to make the name *NSYNC, they took the last letters of each of their first names.)

Well, I have made my point. Actually, I have just managed to embarrass quite a few members of the Argo staff. But hey, they get the last laugh because I am the one writing an article supporting *NSYNC, and well, there are surely many of you out there who think this is a serious piece, so I have in the matter of one minute gone from being a hero to millions to being a pathetic little boy who spends his Friday nights writing articles about "boy bands." You all have to let it go, though, because I am just one of the many suffering from McCain withdrawal. That having all been said, *NSYNC still rules! You know what, maybe I could cut it as the sixth member. Maybe that message on my answering machine from JC was real. Maybe they want me to join them. I could be a star! No matter what, I'll never be a Backstreet Boy. *NSYNC for life. Peace out.

*Note: Rob Orthman is not actually an avid *NSYNC fan. He prefers his old school New Kids on the Block over them all.*

Forum Question:
Backstreet or *NSYNC?



Photo by N. Brown

*NSYNC!!! My little sister would kill me if I said BSB, besides, I've got no strings attached, baby!

-James Duane, I



Photo by N. Brown

*NSYNC - Joey has a nice butt.

-Ryan Tucker, II



Photo by N. Brown

BSB all the way!! They were first, they're better singers, AND better looking!!!

-Sara Shiggs-Quiroga, III



Photo by N. Brown

*NSYNC. They're just better. They're way more talented.

-Lauren Scagnoli, IV



Photo by N. Brown

*NSYNC - their songs actually make sense. The lyrics of BSB's songs never make any sense at all.

-Martha Nalysnyk, V



Photo by N. Brown

*NSYNC - they're just better. I would actually listen to them.

-Micheal Keegan, VI

The Practice of Customer Disservice

By Kevin O’Keefe, I
COPY EDITOR

In order to stay competitive with Internet shopping, retail shops of all sorts must now employ the highest quality of customer service, a facet of commerce that purchasing on the Web inherently lacks. As a result, pressure is put on clerks and cashiers to engage in mandatory, mindless pleasantries with every customer, as well as to display a sort of hollow humility when conducting their work. Requirements of employee conduct transcend the usual programmed responses and now include the portrayal of a visage of enthusiasm and spontaneity. This relatively new trend in customer servitude puts a stress not only on the worker, but on the customer as well. An environment of false sincerity in most cases would appear less attractive than an environment of nothing at all. Company policies have lost touch with reality to a certain extent, and with it they have lost effect.

To outline this separation of reality best, I feel I should recount a particular instance in my personal work experience only a couple of weeks ago. I was mindlessly going about my regularly assigned busywork at the bookstore where I ... well, I wouldn’t really call it work ... where I spend my afternoons. On this occasion, I happened to notice a gentleman, at least 60 years my senior, intently inspecting a book. According to procedure, it is my duty to approach this man and inquire if he needs help looking for a particular item. However, as I came closer, I was able to read the title of his selection: *Erotica: An Illustrated Literary Anthology*. Right. Okay. I did not want to approach this man. Judging by his shifting look and worried demeanor, he did not want me to approach him. So in violation of company protocol, I simply went on my way, saving us both an embarrassing couple of minutes.

In a sense, every mandate to say certain words or act a certain way wholly for customer service is a useful one; however, that usefulness often exists only in theory. To illustrate this, I will offer a few specific examples from my prized door-

stop, *The Barnes and Noble Employee Handbook*. From this amazing guideline to my employment, I learned that it is just as easy for me to be fired for not having a sunny disposition as it is for stealing.

“Remember to say thank you, and show appreciation for their patronage.”
I do not work on commission. No one that I work with works on commission. The fact of the matter is that I could care less whether or not a customer purchases something. Saying “thank you” is polite, but I could appreciate a kick in the ass just as much as someone’s “patronage.”
“Of course we can.”

The company slogan. Every day, the number of people I am not able to help exceeds the number of customers I am actually able to assist. How do I help someone who enters a bookstore looking for lip balm?

“Clerks and salespersons are expected to do their jobs to the best of their ability every minute of the workday.”

Am I seriously expected to be patient and polite with a customer searching for a book that may not exist when I have less than a minute until I am off work? When the customer refuses to acknowledge the fact that the store has closed and I should have left five minutes ago, the customer is no longer right.

It is the worker who truly suffers in this environment. Numerous aids are in place for those who have overbearing feelings of depression and anxiety; but even as prior problems are being alleviated, new difficulties form. Employees are being trained to be insincere, to betray whatever they feel for the sake of customer service. Only the frivolity of our position keeps those of us with a conscience from becoming disgusted with ourselves on a regular basis. Personally, I find a salesclerk with personality more appealing than one with a scripted set of lines. It’s time that people’s actions reflect less of Wal-Mart commercials and more of the guys in Clerks.

This job would be great if it weren’t for the customers.
-Randal



PICTURE BY R. MONTOYA

Gossip Slowly Destroys Latin School Spirit

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

We all do it. We all love it. The only thing better than a party is the the next morning. Phone time. Time to find out what we missed and to let everyone else in on what we *didn't* miss. Nothing beats the excitement of a “he said/she said” story, especially the kind with plenty of loopholes so that we can fill in our own details. Boys do it. Girls do it. We all seem to thrive on it. Nothing beats being able to giggle at something someone did over the weekend after they walk by, or being able to congratulate someone for conquering the impossible dream.

Welcome to the gossip channel. Welcome to high school. I’m no exception. I admit it; I love gossip. I love hearing sixteen different version of the same story. I love being able to add a detail from person number five’s version to person number ten’s version.

I love weeding out fact from fiction ... That is, of course, after telling the fiction sixteen times myself. I’m not innocent on this one and I would never say that I am.

Recently, however, I’ve taken a step back. I’ve looked at what it is we do every Monday morning. It’s not pretty. The consequences of your laughs and good stories are misconceptions, undeserved reputations, and rumors. Gossip has the unique ability of overshadowing any truth, no matter how blatant it may be.

Now, just for a second, let’s imagine. Josh goes to a party. Maybe he does something that he shouldn’t, but then again, maybe he doesn’t. Josh is a good guy. He does well in school, plays basketball, and is pretty much friends with everyone. He’s had a serious girlfriend, but they recently called it quits (and of course everyone assumes that they know all the excruciating details), and most girls really respect him. He is one of the few who “know how to treat a girl.” Josh decided to have some fun at this party. He’s had a rough week, he’s tired, and so he decides to let loose. Josh meets one pretty girl, then another, then another, and then one other. That’s four girls Josh has “expressed interest in.” Josh has a new reputation. Unfortunately for us, we’ll never know exactly what happened between Josh and each of these girls. That’s OK. We at least saw them in each other’s company. We can make our own conclusions. That’s more fun, anyway. Does Josh like this new perception we all have of him? Who cares? He’s stuck with it. And we don’t even know how far this “expression of interest” went. Lucky him.

Let’s imagine one more time. Linda goes to a party. Linda has what we in the gossip world refer to as a “shady past.” She’s not a *bad* girl. She’s just made mistakes. Or at least according to us, she has. It doesn’t matter that we’ve all done things we aren’t proud of. We’re perfectly content exploiting Linda’s several misdeeds. Linda meets someone at this party. She’s being a good girl tonight, trying to change her “image.” She and this boy start talking. It turns out they have a lot in common, and they go for a walk - to talk. When Linda arrives in school Monday morning, she discovers that her past has gotten even shadier. Nobody has bothered to ask *her* any details - they’ve informed her of them. Lucky her.

Our close friends know us well enough to

separate fact from fiction. This, of course, is comforting. But, it doesn’t help that there is a large contingency of people who think otherwise - no matter how many times we scream the truth. There’s always someone who claims the role of seeing something or someone you’ve actually told this to. Its funny to hear things about yourselves that are almost laughable. We’ve all experienced it at one point. We’ve all felt the hurt of a false story, an undeserved name. They’re always justified with the simple phrase, “Well, that’s what I heard ...” We’ve all heard things about ourselves, heard things that those close to us are always questioned about, but which no one would dare come near us about. It’s interesting. Maybe we should reconsider.

Gossip is inescapable. I’m sure that there must be some good purpose for it - even if it only entertainment value. But unfortunately, its ills seem to shine a bit more vibrantly. I can’t help but think that I have probably contributed to someone’s tears, or someone’s self-image. We should all realize that a snide comment, a condescending laugh, or a rude stare hurt more than the hardest hit. We all talk; its undeniable. Maybe we should consider what it is that we’re actually *saying*. Maybe we should think about the words that are about to come out of our mouths, and consider just how ridiculous they may sound. Maybe, if we’re really interested in knowing what happened, we should talk to the people who were actually involved. They do, after all, know best, and sometimes the truth is more interesting. Maybe we should step into the shoes of the person about whom we’re speaking. Maybe we should think about how it would feel if we were this person, and if we would want the story at hand told over and over again - regardless of whether or not it’s true.

Gossip hurts. For every ounce of truth, there are always ten more of fiction and exaggeration. Obviously, people aren’t going to stop gossiping; its too much fun. The chances of that happening are slim to nil. For the brief interim in which we tell our stories, we have a weird sense of power: we *know*, and we hold the ability to shape the opinions and mold the judgements of others. That truly is a large measure of power, one with which we must at least learn to be careful. For if we are not, we will inevitably learn the harm of gossip - and we will learn it the hard way.

Initiative Helps BPS Students

Continued from page 1

-dents of varied racial and geographical backgrounds led presentations on subjects varying from the NROTC program at O’Bryant to making friends at BLA to the victorious girls’ hockey team at Latin. The presentations were then followed by question and answer periods.

Apart from being informative to the many families who attended, all the student presenters agreed it was a rewarding experience for them as well.

Campaign 2000 Update: Candidates a Real Snore

By John O'Donnell, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Okay, I'm a little confused. It's the year 2000, I'm going to be 18-years-old, and I can vote. This is a good thing, right? Dumb question: What are my options? Sad thing is, there are none. How do I know this? Truth be told, I have no life and I'm a self-proclaimed political analyst, that's how. But the truth is as plain as day. Let's take a look at the candidates, going right to left. First is Pat Buchanan, then George W. Bush, followed by Al Gore, and the candidate who wins the best name category, Jello Biafra. Now let's get the play-by-play ESPN style.

Pat Buchanan, so far in presidential elections is 0 for 2. Actually he was denied the Republican nomination twice. So now he's running on the reform party ballot. He is joined by the likes of Jesse Ventura and Donald Trump, high-class folks. Now let's look at Pat's views on the issues. He's pro-life, that's a start. Pro-death penalty, another good point. (Note: While these two views seem to oppose each other, they really don't ... I'll explain later.) Now foreign policy, the good stuff. Mr. Buchanan is in favor of building a wall

on the Mexican border, not a fence ... a wall. I'm talking gun turrets, armed guards, the whole nine yards. Sounds a little extreme to me, but hey, no one is perfect.

Now the leading Republican candidate, George W. Bush. W, as he is affectionately called, is the Governor of Texas, a state so big that whomever wins it is almost guaranteed the presidency.

W won the Republican primary over Senator John McCain of Arizona. I attribute this victory to the "Red Neck Factor" ... in all honesty, a startling demographic. More than 90% of adults that do not hold a high school diploma voted for Bush. All I have to say is YEEE-HAAWW!

Now back to the issues. Bush has recently started calling himself a reformer. To quote John McCain, "Welcome, it must be your first day on the job." Bush became a reformer after the Republican Party spent over 40 million dollars, mostly to throw mud at Senator McCain. Like Buchanan, Bush is pro-life, pro-death penalty, simple enough. Bush also has a plan to return over 400 million tax dollars to the American people. This has kept Alan Greenspan up late at night with indigestion. If Bush is elected, chances are our beloved chair-

man of the Fed will ... retire. Clearly Bush's aides know how to spend lots of money, but economically speaking, they could be the demise of our country.

Next on the list is Gore. Good old Al Gore. He is possibly the only candidate who has contradicted himself more times than there are voters in Rhode Island. In fact, in one speech entitled "New Plans, New Ideas, and Reform," Gore made a statement along the lines of, "Don't switch horses midstream." In other words, things are going well now, why change administrations? Does this boggle anyone else's mind? Also, Gore favors campaign finance, and claims to be a fighter in the war against soft money. Soft

money, you know the kind you get when you walk into a Buddhist temple holding a big basket for donations, that kind of soft money. Anyway, onto the issues. Gore is your standard hard-core liberal. He is beyond pro-choice, he is pro-abortion. His actions in Congress stopped the passing of several bills that would have outlawed partial birth abortions, the most grisly of abortion procedures around today. Most of Gore's policies do, in fact, coincide with Clinton's policies. As much of a scum Clinton may be as a person, he is an excellent President, other than that little leak to China. Like I said, no one is perfect.

Gore is slightly more bearable as a person. If he ever fooled around with an intern, she would have splinters for a week. In so far as honesty is concerned, I am very worried. Gore has the silverest of tongues and has a tendency to illegally obtain large sums of money, but beyond that he may be the best candidate.

The last candidate I know nothing of. His name is Jello Biafra. He is the lead singer of the band The Dead Kennedys and is with the Green Party. To the best of my knowledge the Green Party is in favor of no government. They favor a more socialistic society based on altruistic human behavior. Sounds a little of communism, if you ask me. Good intent but it's not feasible. But have no fear, there is always room for Jello. (You had to know it was coming.)

So now you are still confused, right? Some of the things I said made no sense right? Without a doubt. So let me try to be blunt. What do you do next November? You hold your nose and pick someone. Personally, I will probably write in John McCain. I suppose I will root for Gore, but only because I want Johnny to run in 2004.

So now you're all a little more educated, a little more aware, and a little more fed up with politics. I know I am.



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A Modest Proposal for Governor Cellucci

By Wajiha Ahmed, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Children are not adults, and should not be treated as such. Nevertheless, Governor Paul Cellucci wants the Department of Youth Services to be administered by the Department of Corrections, which is responsible for all the adult prisons in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has actually lowered the age at which an offender can be tried as an adult. In addition, Massachusetts has increased the number of crimes that can be transferred from juvenile to adult court.

How is all this going to help a society that is continually plagued by violent acts committed by minors if it does not provide a solution? If legislation allows this transaction, juvenile delinquents will be transferred from a community where they may be assisted to one where the proper guidance and help will not be available. Is this rehabilitation?

Shouldn't the parents of the accused child bear some responsibility for the acts of their child? Should not the circumstances in which he was brought up have any influence on the decision of a court? And now, even children in elementary school are encompassed in this growing epidemic.

The six-year-old boy who shot and killed his fellow classmate is a perfect example. The young boy lived in a house in which he was surrounded by illegal weapons and drugs, where he did not have a bed to sleep in, and where he lived with his drug-addicted mother while his father was in jail. He even obtained the weapon from his uncle. Does Paul Cellucci really believe that circumstances such as these can be dismissed without consequences?

Will there come a time when our society actually believes that a six-year-old child comprehends the full ramifications of pulling the trigger? If the Massachusetts Legislature chooses to support Cellucci's proposal, such a society may become a reality. There is no perfect solution to this dilemma. However, if Massachusetts continues to favor punishment over rehabilitation, as it has been doing for the past couple of years, the problem will only worsen. A new generation of criminals, murderers, and the like will arise because they were not given a chance.

Juniors Stewing Over Summer Science

By Rose Costello, II
STAFF WRITER

Summer is just around the corner, and as all you hardworking Latin School students anticipate putting away your notebooks and pens for two months, many of my fellow classmates and I prepare to begin summer school. Yes, while you go to the beach or play in the sun, I will be sitting in a sweltering classroom, learning chemistry.

Maybe you're saying: "You shouldn't have failed chemistry then." Well, as a matter of fact I didn't. I have never even taken chemistry. I was never planning on taking chemistry. Then, in mid-March at the elective assembly, juniors on the history and language tracks were walloped with the news that all state schools and Boston University require three years of high school science. Boston Latin School only requires two for graduation. Sounds pretty messed-up doesn't it?

If you have ever attended one of Bruce McKinnon's college search classes you know that UMASS Amherst and Boston University consistently rank in the top five colleges chosen by Boston Latin School graduates. Next year, however that statistic may change. There are many members of the class on 2001

who will not qualify for acceptance. The solution offered at the elective assembly was taking two sciences during senior year. Not only would this mean giving up classes that are only available to seniors, but it would be doing so to give way to a class which, in most cases, does not interest them at all.

Quite a few of the juniors in this predicament, unwilling to subject themselves to the torture of two sciences in one year, will be enrolling in science programs at various colleges around the city this summer. This is a prospect which does not delight many. One junior summed it up with, "Taking science in the summer sucks."

Fortunately, this is only going to be a problem for one year. The class of 2002 has been required to take a science in tenth grade. This way they only have to take science once more in either junior or senior year. The track system has largely fallen to the wayside in favor of more rigorous academic requirements. I'm sure that this is just an early sign on the long road to higher education standards nationwide.

As for the juniors, I suppose we will have to bear it. Just try not to have too much fun while we suffer through homework and labs on those beautiful, carefree days.

Why Do We Hate Castro?

By Sherar Andalcio, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Why do we hate Castro? Ask yourself this question. Batista, a dictator, had the support of the United States because he allowed the U.S. to control Cuba's economy. In 1959, Castro and many other Cubans revolted against the Batista regime, garnering the support of thousands of other Cubans who gave their lives. Cuba is now free from an imperialistic power that sought to exploit and dominate its industries and peoples. The United States has used the Monroe Doctrine and the aid it gave to Cuba during the fight for independence from Spain as a lever for such things as the Platt Amendment, which gave America power to intervene in Cuba's domestic affairs. Castro and others such as Che Guevara have also destroyed a vicious class system that has kept the poor at the bottom and the rich at the top.

You may ask: "Why are so many people trying to leave Cuba?" America is the richest country in the world and is very close to Cuba. America's wealth pulls and pushes many people from every country in the world. Mexicans, Dominicans, and Haitians try to come to the United States every year. Thousands of Dominicans die trying to make it to the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico. Why should Cuban people be any different from others in desiring to come to the United States? Miami has always been a city to where Cubans have immigrated, even before Castro's rule. Some of these immigrants might not agree with the political system of Cuba; however there is not any country in the world which is supported by 100% of its population, and there will always be someone to oppose. A majority of Cubans do agree with Castro and the economic, educational, and health systems that he has introduced.

Cuba today under Fidel Castro has free education for all. That means that no matter how poor someone is, he will still have an equal opportunity. The illiteracy rate in Cuba is 3%, while in America illiteracy is at 20%. Cuba's health care system has been unrivaled since 1959. There is always a community doctor, and health facilities cover 100% of the population. In 1992 there were 18,500 family doctors. The infant mortality rate is 7.2 per 1000 live births, and life expectancy is 76.1 years. The United Nations has recognized Cuba for its outstanding health care system, however this is probably not publicized. Economically it is better than it used to be before Castro. There are no homeless people in Cuba; the U.S. has 10 million. Castro distributed the wealth, and he himself is always willing to work in a cane field as a laborer and has many times. Compared to other Caribbean and South American countries, Cuba is not doing too bad considering its size, natural resources, and the embargo that America introduced.

"Countries such as Costa Rica, Cuba, Sri Lanka and Vietnam have shown that even against international political odds, consistent policies aimed at providing a solid foundation of social services pay off in better health conditions and higher literacy rates than those found in many countries with greater economic resources." Other Latin American countries may boast greater economic growth than Cuba, but their wealth is not reaching the people as it is in Cuba. "Even in countries that have robust economic growth, poverty is paralyzing even greater numbers as in parts of Latin America, where the poorest 20 percent of the people share less than 3 percent of the national income." (<http://www.unicef.org>)

The United States has always hated communism and since Cuba is a communist nation, it hates Cuba. But I ask all of you to be more open-minded, and to educate yourself on matters before you hate somebody and before you start pointing fingers. If world countries would start working together and helping each other instead of opposing all political systems that are different, then the economy of the world would be a lot better and so would our feelings about others.

Uncle Sam and the Kosovars

By Max Eskin, II
STAFF WRITER

I've often voiced my objections to American military intervention in Kosovo. I usually get strange looks for it, not to mention strange responses.

"The point is they need a whack over the head," my father said several times when the war was still front-page news.

"What's wrong with killing bad people?" asked a classmate once. Now, I would have agreed with this statement. I believe that those bad people need a whack over the head. They needed to be killed for harassing and attacking innocent people. However, I objected to the intervention because that was never its purpose. The purpose was never what NATO referred to as "humanitarian concerns." All that the bombing resulted in was the destruction of cities and the deaths of innocent people. Perhaps some people will call that unintentional. However, even that would be wrong. The forces did what they meant to do, and without further ado, here's what they did.

The beginning of this issue was in an earlier war that ended in the mid-1990s. Serbs were oppressing Croats. That seemed simple enough. For a long time, no military intervention was authorized from NATO or the United Nations. Bombing raids came rather late in the game, and the week that they started, *Time* magazine had a cover photo of an explosion with the caption "Bombing the Serbs to Hell." Eventually, the war stopped. There were supposed human rights violations in Bosnia, and investigations uncovered mass graves and other atrocities. For a while, things seemed to have quieted down.

Several years passed, and reports of oppression in Kosovo, a part of the Republic of Yugoslavia, surfaced. The press paid little attention to this issue; NATO, however, seemed to have taken the case seriously, likening the situation to World War II and the Yugoslav president Milosevic to Adolph Hitler. There was a diplomatic effort to install "peacekeepers" in Kosovo, but when the president of Yugoslavia refused the agreement, bombing began.

Few people have ever read the proposed agreement, but it essentially called for the surrender of Yugoslavia. For instance, "NATO personnel, under all circumstances and at all times, shall be immune from ... jurisdiction in respect of any civil, administrative, criminal, or disciplinary offenses which may be committed by them in the Federated Republic of Yugoslavia." This is not even dense legalese: it simply states that NATO personnel must be above the law of that nation. Who was to control them? Who was to guarantee the citizens' safety? Surely these questions were going through the mind of the Yugoslav officials. Indeed, the conditions of the agreement were so outrageous that some analysts have proposed that NATO designed the agreement to be rejected.

When Kosovo rejected the agreement, the bombing commenced. The claim was that only military infrastructure would be attacked. However, when the attacks ceased, approximately one thousand fa-

talities were reported hit, of which only a third were military. The rest? Innocent bystanders. This statistic would not be so shocking in itself, but the complete lack of precaution on the part of the United States makes it more serious. Bombing jets remained at a high altitude to avoid Yugoslav defenses, which also decreased their accuracy significantly. Error-prone cruise missiles were used. Ground forces were not implemented until the end of the raids. This is extremely strange because ground forces are much less error-prone and much more effective than bombing.

Furthermore, the damage was not in the least confined to military bases. Bridges, trains, schools, churches, apartment buildings, hospitals, and factories alike were bombed. The poisonous chemicals from the destroyed factories are perhaps the greatest and most enduring effect of that war: the land will remain damaged for years to come.

The excuse for letting all of these "accidents" happen would naturally be that soldiers should not be put in any excessive danger, especially US soldiers. People from the less powerful countries of the coalition were made to do much of the dirty work, and so the United States cannot be held accountable for all of the fatalities. Which brings me to the question of why they were put in any danger at all. What was the purpose of projecting conditions that would be rejected, and then using the rejection to start a bombing raid on a small Eastern European country that posed no threat to the USA or any other NATO country, on the basis of some barely substantiated claims of atrocities? And why bomb in such a way that the civilian population suffered and the military hardly suffered at all? The reason could have been the desire to test new missile guidance systems. Perhaps it was to increase American dominance in a key region. It may be that the United States needed to demonstrate the need for the military in a fairly peaceful time. All in all, it is hard to pinpoint the "real" reason. What is clear is that a great injustice occurred, and what enrages me most of all is the resistance to this concept.

One person to whom I presented the above points compared me to "holocaust revisionists" who spend their time trying to prove that six million Jews were not killed in the second World War. Remember how the atrocities in Kosovo were compared to the actions of the Nazis at the beginning of the war? Well, some people actually decided to hop on the bandwagon and compare everything about this war to that one. It is taboo to refer to somebody's race, and especially his skin color; it's taboo to question whether or not the Holocaust happened. And now, the same mentality is being applied to discussion of completely different issues, the war in Kosovo in particular.

The war in Kosovo yielded horrors that could have been suppressed, if not prevented. The American people must consider the ramifications of the war; the military actions of the United States must not be shrouded in a halo of immunity to criticism.

Dear Editor:

My name is Bora Plaku, and I am currently attending Boston Latin School. Since it is my first year here, I am writing you this letter to inform you of my experiences and accomplishments at BLS. It's a great school and very challenging. I am doing really well and I think that this school will prove to be a great opportunity for my future. There's something I don't like, though. Some people treat me badly. They mimic my actions and do not approve of my ideas.

I know I am different from a number of students that go to BLS. My ideals and past experiences are unfamiliar to many Americans, thus I do not fit in with many people, and I do not have any particularly close friends. This may or may not be because this is a very competitive school. It may be because of various peer issues, such as jealousy, popularity, not to mention stress.

In Albania, the country where I came from, there was a rebellion against the president, which turned into a war. My family and I had to live under the enormous fear of being caught and killed. The American Green Card Lottery was our ticket to safety, and sure enough, God was with us and we won. Our whole family moved to USA in 1997, which I think is a great opportunity for them, as well as for myself. Now we have a chance to grow and flourish. Now we, the children of our family, have a future to look forward to.

So, even if there are some unpleasant things at BLS, I am thankful that I, as a young woman from Albania, made it into this school and am able to pass with results. I look upon this as a great accomplishment, considering the fact that I have been in USA only three years, and I am very proud of myself.

Sincerely,
Bora Plaku

Domestic Abuse: The Private Epidemic

By Mary Preap, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Abuse does not discriminate. It does not seek its prey through certain qualities; there is no test to pass to be the subject of its wrath. It captures and feeds and regenerates with each passing day that it is allowed to continue. For each turn of the head, for each denial, for each act there is a victim. *Every fifteen seconds, a crime of battering occurs.* – *National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.* An abused person can be anyone – the quiet, shy girl who always seems so frightened of everything, the short tempered boy who just seems like another jerk, the perkier kid in the class, even a teacher.

An estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence by family members against their mother or female caretaker. – *National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Most of the time, the abuser is a person who is known, trusted, and loved. Sometimes victims know that they are being abused. Sometimes they think that they deserve it. Victims may be told multiple times that wrong is wrong, but they may not believe it.

The abused often suffer in silence. This is not because they are weak or stupid, but because the people who love you are not supposed to hurt you, and when the abuser is someone that you love, it is hard to believe that what they are doing is wrong. It is easy to tell a person what they should do, but it is hard to be the person who has to make a decision about whether or not they want to break the vicious cycle.

In health class, on television, and in the newspapers, there are facts and figures telling us what we should do about abuse or how many people go through the cycle of abuse. However, no one ever tells us how hard it is to face abuse. The phrase “Tell someone whom you trust if you are being abused,” gets a little tiresome when the person who is trusted is the one doing the abusing.

Needless to say, with abuse comes anger, shame, and a great deal of hurting. To the rational mind, it is hard to understand why a person who has been victimized feels shame.

But shame comes along with the territory. It is hard to believe that abuse is wrong, but it is not your fault. Shame is there because all you want is to be normal, and normal does not include being hit because you made too

much noise laughing or because your dad had a bad day at work. It does not include someone you love and hold in such high regard telling you how worthless you are. Many victims wonder why they are being abused, then come up with a multitude of reasons to justify and rationalize the pain.

Victims are also subjected to the hidden fear of not being believed when they break the silence, or being hurt as a result of it. The abused may fear telling someone about the abuse only to have the listener look at them incredulously and say, “No way! I know so and so and he would never do that in a million years!” Then the victim is left with the feeling of utter loneliness.

Each case is different and there is a whole spectrum of patterns and situations, but the effects of all types of abuse are long-lasting and permanent to varying degrees.

An estimated 4 million children are abused. Less than half are reported. – *CARE Network.*

Whatever the consequences, abuse cannot be tolerated or excused. It is a violation of another person’s right to live without fear. It is a violation that penetrates the body and the soul. You cannot just put a bandage on the pain and

hope for the best. No matter how hard it may be to stop the cycle of violence, even if you are the victim and you do not think that you are strong enough, you have to do something about it, because if you don’t, the next person you know who is being abused could be your child – and you could be the abuser.

Studies show that in 50-70% of cases in which a parent abuses another parent, the children are also physically abused. Children also suffer emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and developmental impairments as a result of witnessing domestic violence in the home. In addition, some children (especially boys) who experience domestic violence in their homes grow up to repeat the same behavioral patterns. – *American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence.*

Living in silence is the worst way to handle abuse. Violence is a cycle, and it will continue unless someone puts a stop to it. It is difficult to intervene, but someone has to. Do not close your eyes. Do not stand by and wait until you are a victim to join the battle against abuse. If you think that you may be able to help someone, take that first step by calling the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Value of BLS Education

By Meghan Droste, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Value is the perception of the worth of something by others. What is the value of a Boston Latin School education?

A great deal of the value of a BLS education lies in the name. The name “Boston Latin” has accrued a large amount of prestige over its 365 years. Colleges and universities love to see the name on applications. The name impresses, draws hundreds to take the test, causes battles in court, and brings TV crews to film in our classrooms. This is proof that many perceive the worth of the education – or the name – to be very high.

And the education at BLS is really that outstanding. The education here is better than that at any other Boston Public high school, with the possible exception of Boston Latin Academy. We have the highest scores on the MCAS test to prove we are number one public school in this state.

The school does not baby its students. Classes are designed to be challenging, and students must work for high grades. As a result, there are opportunities galore to push yourself to your potential.

This is not to say that all facets of a BLS education are perfect. Some classes are less than exceptional. There are teachers here who are not as well-qualified as we might hope. Some do not speak English clearly; others simply do not teach. This should not be surprising, as no school has an ideal faculty, but it is sometimes forgotten that BLS is not as perfect as it is supposed to be.

Regardless, the education that can be gained at Boston Latin is undeniably valuable. Alumni constantly report how much easier the transition to college was because of their BLS background. The hard work of the six, or four, years here pays off in the long run. Graduates of this school leave with the skills to tackle college and beyond. They leave with more knowledge, are prepared

to work hard, are able to manage their time, and don’t expect a free ride through life.

The value of an education at BLS should be weighed with the experience of getting this education. This value on its own may not be quite as high. Our school is faced with an atmosphere that is not very nurturing. It is easy to feel alone and disconnected at school. Most teachers are faced with the daunting task of teaching 160 students a day; classes are so full that it can be considered a blessing to have teachers who know every student’s name. Teachers with fewer classes may not want to take the time that is needed to establish a real relationship with their students.

Another problem with the environment of Boston Latin is that the focus of the school seems to be misplaced at times. There are times when it seems that the most important thing to the school is turning out as many AP/ honors course-taking, high-scoring students as possible. The focus shifts from ensuring that students understand what is being taught to getting through as much material as possible to produce high test scores. Education is no longer a means to teach students in a way in which they master and enjoy the material, but rather a competition for the best reputation. Is this really what we came to the school for?

I can proudly say at this point that I have survived over four and half years at this school. I choose the word “survived” because that is what I have done. This school is not a game; it is a test of your ability to make it through. Many students drop out every year, unable or unwilling to withstand the huge pressures of the school.

I’m content that I’ve made it, despite the difficulty I had in doing so. That is what most of us came here for, isn’t it? We wanted a challenge; we wanted to work hard so that we’d be ready for whatever comes after high school. Ultimately, I’m glad the school does not make everything easy for its students, but at the same time, I wish the

Losing Sight of the Goal

By Lev Grossman Spivack, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a senior, I have begun to reevaluate the education that I have received at the Boston Latin School. I have become increasingly confused and concerned with the inconsistent methods of teaching and administration. This article is meant to bring to light an issue that continues to be ignored at BLS. I’m of the opinion that there are teachers who have somehow lost sight of the goal of their job – to educate the finest youth in Boston.

Instead of taking the wonderful opportunity to enlighten young minds, some teachers confuse their role as educators with that of the strictly authoritarian figure. In my opinion, the goal of education is to motivate and guide students in an attempt to create leaders, researchers, activists, and inspired intellectuals. This is especially important at such a prestigious institution. The students at BLS will have a responsibility to acknowledge the unfolding environmental, economic, social, and educational issues of the future. Because of this, teachers must dedicate themselves to providing their students with the necessary skills, confidence, and support to want to improve our society. In order for our communities to progress, there must be a supply of capable students who have the skills and drive to become global teachers.

While BLS provides an intense classical education, there is a deficiency in leadership training. This article is an appeal to the Latin School to allow students feel like they are in a position of profound power – simply by studying at BLS. If we are truly the brightest of Boston, then we should be given the respect

school atmosphere were a little different. Goals could still be accomplished with teachers caring a little more, and with fewer students in the classes.

Who knows? Without the feeling of being lost in the crowd, we might just become even greater.

and responsibility that we deserve. BLS students should feel an obligation to become pioneers because they have the skills and the potential to succeed. However, the administration and teaching staff do not consistently show a corresponding amount of enthusiasm and faith in our student body.

I would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the Code of Discipline in the Student Handbook. Recently, I was approached by a faculty member because I had my arm around a fellow student in the hall. The faculty member told me to remove my arm from the student’s shoulder because the behavior could be misconstrued as sexual harassment. Besides being angry, I was completely confused by the incident. Not once in my four years at the Latin School (I admit, I’m a B-sie) have I been told that hugging or putting my arm around a friend is considered inappropriate behavior. Furthermore, I have publicly acted in the same way previous to this comment and was never told that such actions were wrong.

The Code of Discipline is equally vague about this issue; harassment is “defined as sexually-related physical contact or offensive sexual insults or comments.” (7.6.2) Such a puzzling issue deserves specific attention. I suggest that the administration design a workshop on sexual harassment so that students can be better informed what is or is not inappropriate behavior.

I apologize to the educators at the Latin School who already give their heart and soul to motivating students to learn and challenge themselves. On behalf of the student body, I salute your passion and inspiration. Unfortunately, I can not honestly praise the entire BLS teaching staff. In the future I hope that BLS as a whole can become more dedicated to preparing intelligent, inquisitive, courageous, progressive, and most importantly, active leaders. I hope BLS can take on the challenge of training confident and optimistic individuals who will be willing to lead the twenty-first century.

Arts & Entertainment

Coming Attractions

Christopher Coletta

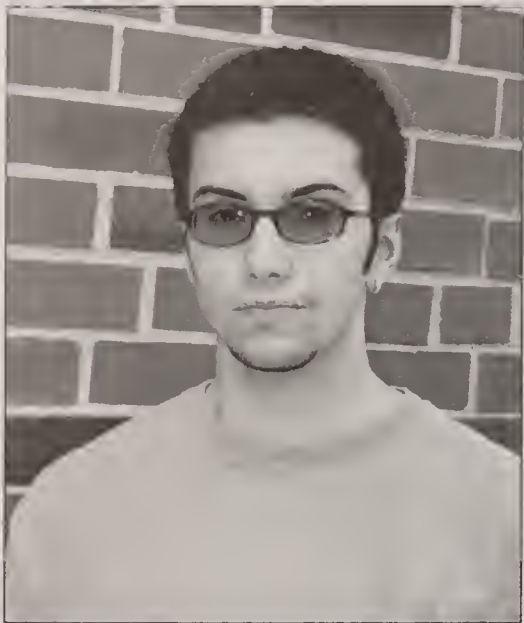


PHOTO BY CASEY GARR

By Christine Nasir, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When one thinks of junior Christopher Coletta, the first thing that comes to mind is a talented opera singer. But there is so much more to this honor roll student than just a great voice. Chris started pursuing his great love of music in the fourth grade, when he joined his first choir. Since then he has been a part of numerous choirs including Boston Latin School's seventh and eighth grade choruses and, currently, Latin's Concert Choir, directed by Ms. Wong-Ho. Chris credits Ms. Wong-Ho with teaching him to hold those long notes and to sing songs in foreign languages such as French, German, Italian and Latin: "If I've ever had any success at all, it's because Ms. Wong-Ho was there to help me." Besides singing opera, Chris sings regularly at his church. He also sings and plays the guitar with his rock band, Cody Wants A Pony.

Singing is not the only thing that Chris enjoys. He is also quite athletic, which is indicated by his participation with the sailing and indoor track teams.

Surprisingly enough, when asked where he thinks he will be in ten years, the first answer that came to mind was not singing, but teaching Physics at BLS!

Rose Costello

By Madeline Hale Sedovic, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of the most avid and passionate members of the Boston Latin School Drama Club is junior Rose Costello. Not only has she had parts in a number of Boston Latin School Drama Club productions, including the role of Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible* (Spring 1999), and various parts in *The Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)* (Fall 1998), but she has also done a great deal of work behind the scenes. She helped design the costumes for both *WASP* (Winter 1999) and *Trial of God* (Spring 1999) last year, and this year was the stage manager for *Adaptation*. For the past two summers she has worked with the group Project Shakespeare and intends to continue with the program this coming summer. There, she played the character Viola in *Twelfth Night* (Summer 1999) and several different roles in *Macbeth* (Summer 1998).

Rose's activities do not stop there, though. She is a member of Boston Latin School's Show Choir and has been a part of the Handel and Hayden Treble Ensemble at the Boston Conservatory of Music for several years now.

When asked about her future at Boston Latin School, she remarked that she hopes to direct a play herself next year. She also commented that she would like to see the arts at BLS "grow and expand and to see new faces" in the Drama Club. Having accomplished so much already, one thing is certain about Rose: she is destined to succeed at whatever she puts her mind to.

Jeremy Jackson

By Jennifer Lawrence, VI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Meet Jeremy Jackson, a talented young man who is always learning and pursuing new goals. Currently a junior at Boston Latin, he has only recently become involved in the drama department. This past winter Jeremy joined the BLS Drama Club for the production of Elaine May's *Adaptation*, a play about a man's life depicted through a game show.. Jeremy, who took on the challenge of playing three different roles, enjoyed being involved in the play and definitely plans to be involved in at least one more play before he graduates. Even though this was only Jeremy's first try at acting, he would definitely recommend being part of a play to anyone who is interested. He describes the performances at the Guild competition as being "one of the most exciting days of my life."

The future holds much more excitement for Jeremy. In addition to his newly found acting career, he has other connections to the arts. He is a member of the Rhythmology club at Boston Latin, which has already performed at the International Showcase and the Fashion Talent Show, and which plans possibly to perform at Music Night. Jeremy is also taking illustration classes at the Mass College of Art. Over the summer, Jeremy plans on taking more art classes to prepare for his portfolio, since right now he wants to study architecture after graduation. No doubt we will continue to hear from Jeremy throughout his last year here at Boston Latin.

BLS Writers at UMass

By Katarina Yee, III
STAFF WRITER

It is hard to believe that this school year is coming to a close, and that those two months of summer bliss are right around the corne, two months of relaxing and forgetting all of the burdens of school. These two months are a time to let go of the past, and look forward to the future. They are a transitional stage of maturing and preparing for the next step in life.

A great place to do everything listed above is at the Writers' Circle at Umass Boston. The Writers' Circle, formerly known as the Writers' Workshop, has been a haven where high school students can improve their writing skills through workshops led by published authors, musicians, and fellow peers. In addition to appreciating the art of writing, people can also meet eccentric personalities and build lasting friendships.

Ms. Nancy O'Malley, the notably kind English teacher who is known as just 'Nancy' over the summer, started the writing program in 1988, with Lou Bernieri, the Head of the English Department at Phillips Academy. "I wanted to create a place for Boston high school writers to spend time writing, learning from each other and from published authors in the Greater Boston area," she remarks. During the first two summers, Ms. O'Malley, Mr. Bernieri, and the twnty-five writers traveled to Andover daily, where they spent two weeks writing and sharing their pieces with one another. However, by 1990 the funding for the program had been used up, and they had no place to go. Advised by Marjorie Joyce, the Coordinator for the Boston Public Schools

*"What I got was
three amazing
weeks of inspiration
and encouragement
to find my own
voice as a writer."*

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Michelle Whitaker

By Adam Finelli, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School may have the honor of being considered the number one school in the state, and it may soon have the advantage of a brand new state-of-the-art addition, but it has only begun to reap the benefits of the talent and wonder of sophmore Michelle Whitaker. You may have seen her in last year's timeless performance of *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)* in her various ensemble roles, which included Polonius, Ophelia's father. If you did, what you saw is only the tip of the iceberg.

Michelle's impressive repertoire started when she was just a child, when she forced her little brother to memorize lines from *The Wizard of Oz* for small household performances. Later on, in the sixth grade she performed in her first real play, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* with the St. Theresa Theatre Guild in West Roxbury. In the eighth grade she became involved with the Boston Children's Theatre, acting in such plays as *Enchanted Castle* and *Fairy Tale Forest*. Later on in the eighth grade, she landed her first major role (which is also still her favorite) as Helen Keller in Riverside Theatre Works' production of *The Miracle Worker*. Then came *The Compleat Wrks ...*, her only BLS Centre Stage production. Also at Riverside, in the ninth grade, she took on the role of "Fairy" in *The Curious Savage*, and gave quite a remarkable performance. That summer she worked as a theatre intern/councilor at Riverside's summer drama camp, where she did a large amount of backstage work. "The heart of theatre lies in the wings ... without the work that goes on there, nothing happens in front of the audience."

Other plays include: *Here and Now* (at Riverside) and the Yellow Submarine Improvisational Troupe's night of scenes this past fall. Recently she landed her second favorite roll as Anne Frank in Theatre To Go's production of *Diary of Anne Frank*. She filled her role with life as a result of hard work and research, something she finds extremely helpful for types of roles.

Her future hopes are to have a more broad approach to her theatrical career, and to expand her connections and skills. By the time she graduates, she hopes to produce a musical at BLS, something that very few students remember ever happening at this school. This urge is brought on by her love for music and singing, which she has also cultivated at Boston Latin as a member of the seventh, eighth and ninth grade choirs and, currently, in Concert Choir. She also belongs to her church's choir. Michelle needs an agent, and as most people who have worked with her know: plenty of bananas. Look for Michelle in the next BLS Center Stage production, *Marvin's Room*, and in *Riverside Theatre's* production of the Bard's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Whew!

*NSYNC on Fire with Latest Album Release

By Allison Jolly, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I am sure everyone who is reading this is getting super cheese-pop reflux of last summer's chart topping sugar coated ballads of the "I Want It That Way" and "God Must Have Spent A Little More Time On You" variety. Please, bear with me. Read on and you may be able to discard those awful images of earring-wearing, bleached blond twenty-somethings singing mushy songs while suggestively gesturing (which, of course, makes all the little girls scream). The acid flashback that is the BOY BAND.

The term "boy band," which has rapidly become cliched, usually means: five girly-guys who put out a wave of inoffensive pop tunes, tour constantly, become the hottest band on the face of the earth for about three seconds and then mysteriously vanish. Well, (as I, a die-hard fan, have known all along) *NSYNC does not fit this cliché. For all you skeptical ladies and gentlemen, "No Strings Attached," released on March 22 is *NSYNC's third

album. *NSYNC hit the U.S. scene in 1998 with their self-titled album containing some tracks previously released on their LP in Europe. Their first single from the album, "Bye Bye Bye," has shot up on local pop charts and the video for it can be seen daily in its unwavering number one position on MTV's "Total Request Live." *NSYNC's very loyal fan base love the new material and have thrusted record sales to diamond status, having bought more than ten million copies world

**NSYNC's very loyal fan base love the new material and have thrusted record sales to diamond status, having bought more than ten million copies world wide within the first month of sales.*

wide within the first month of sales.

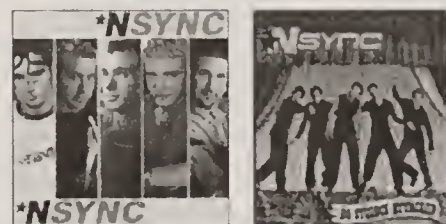
The fact is *NSYNC could have put out a record of atonal yodeling and the normally mature pre-teen fan base would still rush to the store to buy the merchandise and continue to line up at venues for a mere glimpse of the group. The most surprising element of this new album is its widespread appeal. The new edgy R&B feel exemplified in "Bye Bye Bye" and "It's Gonna Be Me," has exploded and reached an audience previously immune to even tapping their toe to "I Want You Back" (an earlier *NSYNC single). Yes, even guys like it. Don't deny it fellas, I know who you are. The men of *NSYNC have even coined a new term to describe their emerging flavor, "dirty pop" (not a reference to the suggestive lyrics included in the song "Digital Getdown," a term denoting one forceful, danceable flow combined with pop chorus hooks). It works quite nicely.

Who are the creators of this "dirty pop" to which *NSYNC so expressively lend their vocals? They are. Contrary to popular belief, the bulk of the songs of this album (seven out of the twelve) were penned by the group members themselves, particularly by the brown-haired, blue-eyed mastermind and textbook "hottie" Joshua (JC) Chasez who shares lead vocal responsibilities with heartthrob Justin Timberlake. Another boy band myth shattered. Overall, "No Strings Attached" marks a milestone for the group as well as other bands on one pop market since *NSYNC had unhindered creative freedom. This freedom comes as a result of writing and recording "No Strings Attached" without a record company. Thus *NSYNC was not only able to record their own tunes but to collaborate with talented writers and producers of their choice, including R & B icon She'kspear and one godfather of '80s club music Teddy Riley.

As a result of the combination of the group member's personal musical tastes, the album is incessantly and inherently danceable. The tracks, averaging about four minutes each, can do more than enough to get you out of your seat and grooving. Tracks like "Bring in the Noise" and the title track "No Strings Attached," (both written by Chasez) have imposing beats that would make even their most inhibited victims slaves to the dance floor. And then there come the ballads (of which there are only three!). My prediction is that "This I Promise You" will become the over-played love ballad of 2001 and will automatically become "the song" of many teenage couples. (Regurgitation much?) However, "I Thought She Knew," an a cappella arrangement, is a gorgeous song and proves that J.C., Justin, Joey, Lance and Chris can and do actually sing. (That is the third truth that has been dispelled in the course of this article. Are you convinced yet?)

Unlike the group's female counterpart (merely by Mickey Mouse Club only), Brittany Spears, *NSYNC sings ... live. You'll never take my word for that unless you are one of the lucky people who have tickets for the July 23 show at Foxboro stadium. The members of *NSYNC will be touring all through the summer months with their "No Strings Attached" tour, which is supposed to be outrageously large-scale and extravagant, putting even the big time tourers U2 and the Rolling Stones to shame. Catch them if you can!

*NSYNC is on fire, and I don't think they have plans to bow out of the scene any time soon, so isn't it really a waste of hot air cracking jokes and making fun of the world's biggest and most successful music group of the millennium? For they hold the record for most albums sold, breaking one million on the first day! Why don't you just get up, listen and give the guys of *NSYNC a chance. Who knows? You may end up dancing! One last try: *NSYNC is so much better than the Backstreet Boys! (I'm going to get killed for that one!)



*After releasing thier first self-titled album in 1998, *NSYNC is once again seeing record sales around the world with the release of their latest album "No Strings Attached," which marks the third album release of the group.*



Congratulations to the Boston Latin School Senior Concert Band and the Boston Latin School Jazz Band!

Under the direction of Mr. Pitts, the Boston Latin School Senior Concert Band received a bronze medal for their performance at the MICCA band festival on Sunday, April 2, 2000! At the festival the Senior Concert Band performed *Liberty Bell*, *On a Hymnsong of Lowell Mason*, and both movements of *Cajun Folk Songs*. Also at the festival, the Boston Latin School Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Pitts, received a silver medal for their performance. Lev Grossman-Spivak (I), a member of the Jazz Band, received a M.V.P. at the festival. Congratulations and kudos to all who participated in the festival!

Arts Spotlight



FILE PHOTO

Andrea Alessi

By Neala Brown, I
FORUM EDITOR

“I am never doing anything artsy ever again,” is the constant line coming from the mouth of the “oh-so-statuesque” 5 foot nothing Andrea Alessi. Of course, these words most often come out of her mouth as she doodles in her sketchbook or as she shuffles through the plethora of pieces that she seems to produce in a matter of minutes. “Wow,” is the only word that escapes most of us as we look through her various pieces, which range from the naked female body (which she seems to have been particularly interested in this year ... she just informed me that it is her AP Art concentration ... sure it is), to an intricate design made up of shapes and lines. She always just shrugs and insists that she can do better. Those of us who are not so artistically inclined can only let our jaws drop.

If you want to see time management skills, spend a day in the life of Andrea Alessi. This is a girl who is at the top of her class, maintaining an A average despite the four AP classes and one honors class that she has managed to fit into her schedule. Add to this her various extra-curricular activities, ranging from cheerleading, to being the lay-out editor of the *Argo*, to coaching the gymnastics team of which she was a member for years, to being incredibly involved in her temple’s youth organization. Busy would be one word to describe her.

Despite her cries of loathing art, it truly is her forte. In short, this girl has talent. How many other high school seniors do you know that are illustrating a children’s book? Most of us are happy with drawing a stick figure and having people recognize the fact that it is a person. Aside from being an aspiring member of the AP Art class (oh, how she loves the female form), she was a student of the MFA’s scholarship program for three years, and has been taking photography classes for years at the Art Institute of Boston, yet another place where she can boast of a 4.0 grade point average.

Some artists have a specialty. Some are painters, some are sculptors, some are sketchers. Andrea is a little bit of everything. This past summer, while at a program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, she decided to foster all her interests by studying painting, figure drawing, and metal sculpture. As a result of this she now has a series of amazing paintings and drawings that lay inconspicuously behind a large mirror in her room, and a huge metal sculpture that sits in her backyard. Andrea is still developing her talent. But even though she is a work in progress, she has numerous awards to show the world that even a developing talent is beyond amazing.

Her list of awards is long. She was voted “most artistic” in the senior class by her peers, she has won awards for her photography at the Art Institute, she was awarded second place in the city-wide AIDS poster contest, a silver key in scholastics, and she has also had her art exhibited in several galleries and two in the District Attorney’s office. Like I said, all we can do is let our jaws drop. All of this is from a girl who insists that she never again wants to do anything artsy.

Her future is bright as you can imagine. She has decided to spend the next four years at UPENN, an incredible university which matches her incredible talents; and aspires to someday be a “photojournalist for *National Geographic*.” Again, she insists that she has no plans to do any art at UPENN, but for the sake of those who enjoy anything aesthetically pleasing, I sure hope not.

Adaptation Honored at the 69th Annual MHSDG Festival

By Emily Grigg-Saito, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dramatic Comedy? Comedic Drama? Dark Comedy? Ironic Drama? My Humanities class found it difficult to decide just how to describe Boston Latin School Centre Stage Production’s latest work, Elaine May’s *Adaptation*. After successfully passing the first round in the 69th Annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival, the Drama group brought *Adaptation* back to BLS for a few days before their semi-final round of competition at B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River. This production affected its viewers in many ways; the show was hilarious, moving, thought provoking, and to some, even depressing. And yet Director John Baker (I) and the cast were perfectly comfortable with the ambiguity of the script and challenged the audience to wake up, pay attention, and think.

Mixing elements of 1960s science fiction TV shows with surrealistic undertones, *Adaptation* follows one man, Phil Benson, from his birth to his death. Phil goes through the stages of infancy, college, career, and marriage. There is one oddity in how this story is told, however: Phil’s life is a game show. The all-controlling Games Master, played by Rhys Dudeney (II), gives him opportunity cards and moves him along places on a board. After finally growing up to become a hotel manager, Phil dies and returns to where he began the game, where he realizes that there was so much more he wanted to accomplish during his life.

Squeezed into forty minutes, the BLS production was fast paced, and every event was executed with amazing creativity and precision. There was none of the overacting or jumbled lines one might expect from the typical high school play. The ensemble cast worked together seamlessly with an unbelievable combination of energy and soul, and added meaning to their many characters and jokes on life. Highlighted among this ensemble were Gina Cappellano (I) and Tommy O’Malley (II), acting as Phil’s “perfect” parents. Both actors expertly simulated characters found on 1950s TV shows, but they also gave depth to their roles, as the two try to ignore what is still missing from their lives. There were also many funny appearances by CIA Agent Rebecca Tumposky (II), Frat Guys Amanda Mezzetti (I) and Jeremy Jackson (II), and the finger-painting Psychologist Nikki

Georges-Clapp (I), among others. As Phil grows up he seems to be filling his father’s shoes. He marries Doris, played by Maura McDonald (I), and the two soon have their son Dore, played by Jeremy Jackson (II).

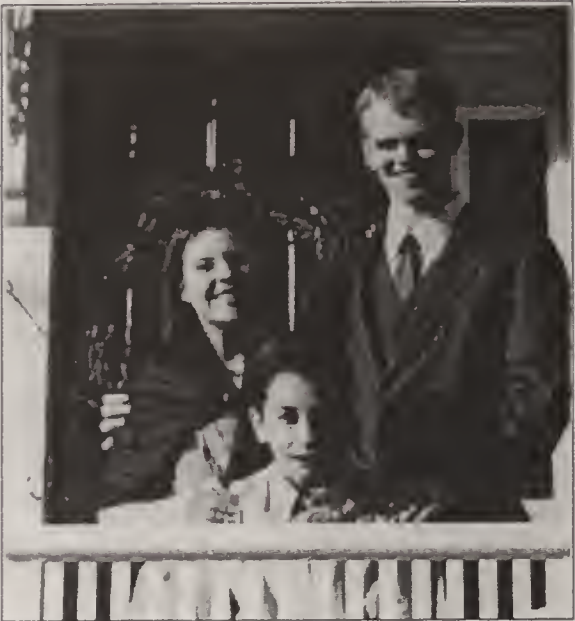
As Phil Benson, Adam Finelli (III) was charming, amusing, and captivating. Playing the character

around whom all of the action takes place, Adam Finelli was a talented part of the cast. His ability to go through the show from birth, being carried around by his mother, to the coronary occlusion that causes his death, showed his unique acting ability. Throughout the play his energy bounced off the other characters, and made the play increasingly entertaining. It was obvious that the entire cast had a great time.

Also impressive about *Adaptation* were the innovative set, props and lighting design. The set was an unusual one, composed of various panels and pictures of Phil throughout his life, and a large sort of podium, with two side panels of spandex, pushed from the inside to represent a beating heart. After deciding against the script’s original set design, Director John Baker, Assistant Director Jon Gass, Jr. (II), Stage Manager Rose Costello (II), Assistant Stage Manager Sarah Dwyer (II), and Set Designers Kaitlyn Jolly (II) and Douglas Le (II), brought together this incredibly fascinating set. The play’s use of music and sound, operated by Erin George (III), as well as the play’s interesting lighting scheme operated by Devon Rueckner (II) and Jeremy Hardy (III) made the production appear very professional. The repeated sound of heartbeats, along with Liz Kaminga (III) and Lu Mei He (III) beating against the spandex was particularly effective.

Challenging audiences and advancing to the semi-final round of the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival, *Adaptation* was far from an average high school play. *Adaptation* was honored at the preliminary and semi-final rounds of the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival for multiple aspects of the production. Kaitlyn Jolly and Douglas Le received awards for set design, Devon Rueckner and Jeremy Hardy for lighting design, and Liz Johnson (III) and Rebeca Pepp for props. Adam Finelli,

Mareus Stacey (IV), Nikki Georges-Clapp, Maura McDonald, Thien Huong Duong (II), and Tommy O’Malley received acting awards from the Drama Guild panel of judges. The talented cast and crew deserve many kudos for all their hard work and dedication. This year more than ever, the Boston Latin School Centre Stage Productions is strong and making its mark.



At the 69th Annual Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival, the cast and crew of Boston Latin School Centre Stage’s production of *Adaptation* were honored with multiple technical and acting awards. Above are several of the photographs used in the production that depict various stages of the life of Phil Benson, played by Adam Finelli. (Photos by C. Anderson)

The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe Presents *The Wizard of Zo*

By Jonathan Kreiger, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Believe it or not, Boston Latin School has an after school club called The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe which meets weekly in our school. Although for most of the year they have been unknown, for one shining night they were stars. On March 17, the troupe's *The Wizard of Zo*, written and directed by Jack Ferris, had the whole audience roaring with laughter. Said one viewer of the show, "one word: d— funny." The guy could not count, but even he realized the hilarity of the play. The only thing that came even close to a complaint was made by someone who could not hear certain lines because of "a little too much laughing."

This play parodies *The Wizard of Oz*. The play's answer to Dorothy is Millis (played by Michelle Slade) although, surprisingly, she is not accompanied by a little black dog. She seems trapped in her own personal version of hell with a dorky brother (played by Pat Chase) and two parents, Ferris and Caitlyn Zeller, who seem not to care about her at all. When she is alone in a room, Millis runs into a chair and is knocked out for the count.

Millis wakes up and is "not in Kansas anymore." Three munchkins, played by Emma Bayer, Sarah Parisi and Nafkote Tamirat tell her that if she wants to go home, she will have to follow the yellow line (the play's answer to the yellow brick road) to find the Wizard of Zo in order to get help.

Along the way Millis meets several characters. One is a scarecrow (played by Michael Guerra) who is actually remote controlled by Brainiac (played by Chase). Guerra, who spends more of his time complaining about his lack of lines in between scenes than delivering the ones he has, described the role as being "the comic relief in a comedy."

Millis also meets a knight (Ferris again) who constantly vows to avenge various characters' deaths. At one point he kills someone, and when Millis points this out, he shrugs and says, "I know, but I'll avenge his death." She also meets a Weirdo, played by Michael Durant, who provides humor with his nonsensical way of speaking. Millis also meets a salesman, played by Josh Michel, who cannot really sell anything.

You do not need to be a *Wizard of Oz* trivia buff to recognize the famous line "Lions and tigers and

bears, oh my!" The play responds with, "Salesmen, executives, and lawyers, oh my!"

And what would the play be without a Wicked Witch? Zeller doubles as the Wicked Witch of the Other Side, who explains during the play that she cannot send flying monkeys after the gang because of the play's budget problems. She does manage, however, to send a sleep-inducing eggplant (played by Matt Chan). The witch also has her own monsters, played by Jared Egan and Steve Leonard. Later in the play the witch is killed, but part way through her demise she decides to skip the death scene.

Of course the play would not be complete without the Wizard of Zo (played by Joe Gels), who in this version attempts to hide his identity by talking via a sock puppet. He is eventually revealed as a fraud, but helps out the Salesman, Brainiac and the knight, but not Millis. When Millis does wake up (after the Weirdo hits her on the head with a hammer) she is at home and the play is basically over.

Well, my review does not do the play any justice because what happened on that stage was too impressive for words. If you want to see the script, you can do so by going to <www.improv.cjb.net>. I give the play two thumbs up and would give it even more if I had more thumbs! Perhaps one fan put it best when he said, "On a scale of one to ten, I give it a hundred."

You do not need to be a Wizard of Oz trivia buff to recognize the famous line "Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" The play responds with, "Salesmen, executives, and lawyers, oh my!"

Arts Spotlight



PHOTO BY VINH THUY TRUONG

Jeffrey Winning

By Anya Drabkin, I
STAFF WRITER

The mythology of Jeff-O's birth is shrouded in mystery; one version states that he was born on a houseboat in Southern Afghanistan, while another widely-known story claims he was found in a synthetic, maroon cocoon hanging off a tree in upstate New York; he was raised for the first two years of his life by pirates, who instilled in Jeff-O a life-long love of, and appreciation for, booty. Whichever version you believe, it is clear to all that Jeff-O is in fact an aardvark.

Jeff-O took art classes at the MFA from 1996-1997, where he learned how to sharpen pencils, as well as the correct definition of the word "wallop." He has worked at Artists for Humanity several days a week since October 1997, although he has occasionally been forced to take days off to walk around and yell a lot.

You will never, ever, catch Jeff-O eating anything purple, not even eggplant.

Jeff-O has experienced several crazy sex-filled years with various rock-n-roll bands, playing the drums and the bass guitar, mostly with his toes. A few years ago, he received an offer to sing back up for Diana Ross, but the deal fell through when she decided Jeff-O did not have enough hair.

Jeff-O takes several AP classes, including, ahem, AP art. He is by all accounts, smart as hell; he has widely used his immense intellect over the long years at Latin to perfect the highly elusive talent of pen-twirling.

It has been observed by special agents from NASA (National Association for the Surveillance of Aardvarks) that Jeff-O has been wearing the exact same outfit for the past four years. (One of the agents, known to some as Vinh, spotted Jeff-O in a parade, where he appeared to be the butt of a corporate dragon, and was able to recognize him just by looking at his pants and shoes). An inside source has recently discovered that Jeff-O has actually been wearing the standard uniform of the hardcore breakdancer: thus, Jeff-O has become the first white guy since Gene Kelley who, when he dances, manages somehow not to look like he is having severe muscle spasms.

Jeff-O takes art seriously. He has been working tirelessly on a series of nudes; the theme of the series as a whole seems to have something to do with nakedness, although "girls wearing no clothes" is also feasible.

The truth is, Jeff-O is quite superior to everyone else, and he represents a small but growing number of people who share a bright and hopeful vision for a future where the world is run primarily by weird-looking animals who eat ants. Therefore, if you are not an aardvark, and you do not wish to live your life as a lowly slave, please contact Jeff-O ASAP, and he will either give you a pen or tell you to take off your clothes. Either way, run for your life.

Jeffrey would like to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to all the fine ladies out there.

BLS Writer's Circle at UMass

UMASS, from Page 15

at the time, they called Joseph Check of the Boston Writing Project, and they established a new home at UMass Boston.

The amount of money the program needs has always been a concern as to whether the program would exist each summer. With the help of powerful individuals such as Mr. Michael Contompasis, the former headmaster of BLS, Mr. Fred Markey of the Boston Latin School Association, and Dr. Albert Holland, the director of Alternative Education, as well as organizations including the Roblee Charitable Foundation and the Boston Writing Project, the Writers' Circle is now going into its twelfth year.

During the summer of 1999, the workshop enjoyed an enormous growth in the number of new writers, as well as some unanticipated media attention. It was featured in *The Boston Sunday Globe*, and as a result more funding was secured. Hence the creation of the A+ Saturday Academy, a year-round tutoring program where members of the Writers' Circle mentor fifth grade students at Snowden International High School.

The Writers' Circle consists of two sessions. Each session is three weeks long. In this short amount of time, writers are able to inspire and be inspired, critique and be critiqued, and most importantly, share a passion with fellow writers.

Though Ms. O'Malley has remained the Director of the Writers' Circle, Jeremy Duhme and Maria Dubrowski, graduates of the BLS classes of 1989 and 1997, respectively, have assisted her as the Associate Directors of the program. Jeremy, expected to return next summer, states that "It's nice to have a space where all you're expected to do is write, away from the strictness of the classroom."

Many members of the Circle agree with Jeremy. "I was expecting three weeks of sitting in a classroom, being lectured about writing and then given assignments," says Amy Cooper, a sophomore at Boston Latin Academy. "What I got was three amazing weeks of inspiration and encouragement to find my own voice as a writer."

The program is an intense three weeks of writing and sharing pieces. True, some of the fabulous writers can be intimidating just because they are so good, but the purpose of the workshop is exactly that: producing those fabulous writers. Molly Shugrue, a senior at Dublin School in New Hampshire, describes the program best: "For a few hours a day, we are taught to use the whole creative dynamic in ourselves that we don't often get to use in everyday life." Amy Lee, a freshman at BLS raves, "It's a wonderful program. It helps people become better writers and allows them to explore all genres of writing."

The two sessions this year are expected to run from July 10th to July 27th and from July 31st to August 17th. If you would like more information about the Writers' Circle, feel free to drop by Room 201 and talk to Ms. O'Malley. "We always think of ourselves as a circle of writers which expands every year to let in new voices," Ms. O'Malley declares. Let your voice be heard, and this will be a summer you will never forget.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Arts & Entertainment Calendar Compiled By John Baker and Gina Cappellano

Upcoming Movie Highlights		Upcoming Theatre Events	
	Title:	Gladiator	
	Release Date:	5/5/00	
	Distributor:	Dreamworks, SKG	
	Cast:	Russell Crowe (Maximus/Narcissus Meridas), Joaquin Pheonis (Emperor Commodus), and Richard Harris (Marcus Aurelius)	
	Director:	Ridley Scott (<i>Blade Runner</i>)	
	Title:	I Dreamed of Africa	
	Release Date:	5/5/00	
	Distributor:	Sony/Columbia	
	Cast:	Kim Basinger, Vincent Perez, Robert Loggia, Era Marie Saint, Liam Aiken, Daniel Craig	
	Title:	Battlefield Earth	
	Release Date:	5/12/00	
	Distributor:	Warner Brothers	
	Cast:	John Travolta (Terl), Barry Pepper (Jonnie Tyler), Kelly Preston (Chirk), Forest Whitaker (Ker), Michael Byrne	
	Director:	Roger Christian	
Upcoming Art Events at BLS		Upcoming Music Events	
BLS MUSIC NIGHT BLS Music Programs Friday, April 28, 2000 BLS Auditorium @ 7:00PM		Big River @ Boston Children's Theatre, 4/29, 5/6, 5/5, & 5/7	
		Blue Man Group Ongoing @ The Charles Playhouse (blueman.com)	
		BLS Centre Stage's production of Marvin's Room , 6/2, 6/3, & 6/4	
MARVIN'S ROOM BLS Centre Stage Productions June 3, June 4, & June 5, 2000		The Dying Gaul @ Boston Center for the Arts, 4/13 - 4/29	
		The Front Page @ Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 3/31 - 4/30	
		The Jungle Book @ Wheelock Family Theatre, 4/7 - 5/7	
Does someone in your grade deserve a Coming Attraction?		Miss Saigon @ The Wang Theatre, 6/8 - 6/25	
		Musical! The Musical! @ Improv Boston Theatre, 4/27 @ 7:30 PM	
		This Is Our Youth @ Boston Center for the Arts, 4/15 - 4/30	
Contact the Arts and Entertainment Editors John Baker in HR 336 or Gina Cappellano in HR 337.		The World Goes Round @ Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 4/21 - 5/21	
		Et Ceteras	
		BLS Music Night , including the Senior Concert Band, and Show Choir @ BLS Auditorium, 4/28 @ 7:00PM	
		The Cure @ Tweeter Center, 6/14	
		MICCA Stars @ Boston Symphony Hall, 4/22	
		Oasis @ The Orpheum, 4/27	
		Santana and Macy Gray @ Tweeter Center, 8/1	
		Tina Turner with Lionel Richie @ Fleet Center, 6/8 & 6/9	
		Vanessa , an opera, @ Emerson Majestic Theatre, 5/5 & 5/7	
		WBCN River Rave , including Godsmack, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and Powerman 5000 @ Foxboro Stadium, 5/27	
		American Reperatory Theatre (A.R.T.) (617) 547-8300	
		Boston Ballet (617) 695-6955	
		Boston Children's Theatre (617) 424-6634	
		Boston Lyric Opera (617) 542-4912	
		Boston Public Library, Copley Square (617) 536-5400	
		Boston Symphony Orchestra (B.S.O) (617) 266-1200	
		Braintree General Cinema (781) 848-1070	
		Charles Playhouse (617) 931-2787	
		Cheri (Sony) Cinema (617) 536-2870	
		Cleveland Circle Cinema (617) 566-4040	
		Colonial Theatre (617) 931-2787	
		Copley Pl. (Sony) Cinema (617) 266-1300	
		Dedham Showcase Cinema (781) 326-4955	
		Emerson Majestic Theatre (617) 824-8000	
		Greater Boston Arts (P.B.S.) www.pbs.org	
		Huntington Theatre Company (617) 266-0800	
		Improv Boston Theatre (617) 576-1253	
		Institute of Contemporary Art (617) 266-5152	
		Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (617) 566-1401	
		Lyric Stage Company of Boston (617) 437-7172	
		Merrimack Repertory Theatre (978) 454-3926	
		Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (M.F.A.) (617) 542-4mfa	
		Museum of Science (617) 723-2500	
		Newton General Cinema (617) 277-2500	
		Randolph Showcase Cinema (781) 963-5600	
		Telecharge 1-800-447-7400	
		Ticketmaster (617) 931-2787	
		Wilbur Theatre (617) 931-2787	
		Wheelock Family Theatre (617) 734-4760	

Sports

A Look Back at Latin School Hockey

Another Success For Lady Wolfpack

By Catherine Foley, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tired from the well-earned victory of the semi-final game the night before, the Wolfpack Girls' Hockey team gathered one last time this season.

Mr. McDonough and Mrs. Balaconis, our coaches, put smiles on all of our faces by telling us that no matter what happens, they were already proud of each and every one of us.

I can't speak for the whole team, but as I was sitting in the locker room, waiting to warm up and stretch, I began to feel really nervous, scared and sick. I couldn't back down now, not after all the hard work put into achieving this opportunity.

The nervousness went away as the team started warm ups. I felt more comfortable on the ice with the team. The large number of fans, especially the members of the student body, helped to lift our confidence and encouraged us to work harder. The Wolfpack Girls' Hockey team practiced and played as a team all season long. During the first two periods, Arlington played their hearts out. They always seemed to shear up in front.

Aislinn Doherty, Kerry Brennan, Kathleen Norton, Courtney Carthas, Lauren Hurley, Michelle Tassinari, Jessica Price, Katie Balaconis and our star goalie Helen McCarthy also played their hearts out in return. Arlington thought they were going to stay in

the lead, but we denied them every time. Thanks to all the players stated above, we stayed in that game. From Doherty, Brennan, and Hurley scoring three very sweet goals, to Helen McCarthy being unbeatable in the net, from the ongoing fore checking and backchecking by Doherty,



The BLS Girls Hockey team, celebrating in triumph their Division II State Championship, as seen on the front page of the Boston Herald.

Brennan, Tassinari and Norton, to the rock solid defense of Balaconis, Price, Carthas, and Del Prato, the Wolfpack showed that we came there to play!

At the end of the second period, despite all the work and energy put into those thirty minutes, we

were trailing Arlington. I sat in the locker room in silence; I was thinking about how much more we (the Wolfpack) wanted the title, and how much harder we worked during the season to get in the final round. I reminded my teammates that there was still fifteen minutes left of playing time, we were only trailing by one goal, and we wanted that title more than they did.

The Wolfpack started the third period with positive attitudes and would do anything in their power to leave the rink as the Division II State Champs. Throughout the game, I noticed that I had been receiving a very physical game. I left the rink that day with a large bruise on my right arm, a bruise on my right knee, a bruised jaw, an extremely large blister on the inside of my left foot and the back of my knee bleeding, taking the victory from them. I guess I got back at them in a clean way.

This year was one of my best years, and I hope the rest of my years at the Boston Latin School are as memorable as this one. I hope we are going to be competing for the title again next year, and to Hurley, good luck in college, we'll miss you!

"I was thinking about how much more we wanted the title and how much harder we had worked during the season to get into the final round"

A Final Note On A Championship Season

By Joseph Coffey, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

First of all, I would like to dedicate this article to the Boston Latin Men's Hockey team, their families, the coaches, managers Meghan Nelligan and Jill Villani, and the wonderful fans. Without all their continuous support, the season would not have been as successful.

For all those readers not aware of the team or how they actually did during the winter months, allow me to fill you in. Head Coach Dave Coleman is considered one of the best coaches in high school hockey. He has been coaching at Boston Latin for over thirty years now and has the experience and knowledge to lead any team to a victorious season. Assistant Coaches Frank Woods, Mark Chadyvone and Boyd Jones were all varsity level hockey players during their time at Boston Latin. The team's coaches had the tenacity and "smart hockey" knowledge necessary for the team to perform well. As far as the players are concerned, Captains Ryan Kearney, John Balaconis and Rick Belmonte proved themselves worthy of the notoriety by boosting the team's confidence no matter what the score. Ryan Kearney or "Kernells" would patiently wait to make a ferocious pounce upon any wary forwards. Speaking of goals, first line forward Ricky

"Rotweiller" Belmonte went fishing every game and usually averaged two catches in the opponent's net. And of course no one can forget John "Dita this is mine" Balaconis who seemed to have radar vision gobbling up shots from everywhere. The team will definitely miss its captains and their great styles of play.



The Wolfpack comes together as a team.

Moving on, I'd like to honorably mention the other seniors of the Wolfpack Hockey team: George McEvoy or "Mac", Tim "Big T" McDonough and Ted "TedRex" Kelliher. South Boston is proud of its two patriots as they would have sacrificed themselves for anybody on the team. Teddy saw a lot of action this season and kept the team's spirit alive for victory. A team does not find true players every season, but this team was one of the lucky few out there.

The juniors on the squad included Brian Carthas, Nick Collins, Charlie Levin, Andrew Collins, Mike Manning, John Tobin, Jeff Arinella and some red-haired kid, but I forget his name. Brian "Chico" Carthas and Nick "Firey" Collins played first line and led the team to a numerous amount of victories in nail-biting battles. The skill and



Brian Carthas gears up to shoot.

outstanding play of these two snipers is indescribable. Making sure the other team kept their heads up were Andrew "The Rock" Collins and Charlie Levin or "Chazzy". As native-born Southies these men showed no mercy when it came to playing hockey. Next season Charlie Levin and Brian Carthas will head the team as captains for 2000-2001. Also carrying the team were Jeff "Sniper" Arinella and John "Killer" Tobin who proved themselves as skilled players. Jeff could always find holes in

the goalie's pads, while Tobin bashed his enemies if they dared to touch the puck. I'd also like to mention a brave man on the team's second line named Mike "Man Wai" Manning. Showing his aggressive style of play got Mike injured for a while during the season. This happens to all tough players at some time in their careers. Not one person can underestimate the pure integrity and heart this man plays with every game. Mike should be back for next year, more ready than ever to give it his all.

And now I come to speak of the sophomores and freshmen of the team. These men knew what they had to do when they stepped on that ice every game. The sophomores included James "Duff-nut" Duffy, Tim "Kermit" Mahoney, Pat "Trucky" Balaconis, Mike "Mac" McCarthy, Steve "Kasperidus" Kasper and Matt "Begal" Regal. The freshmen included Jackie "Jacky-O" Owens, Rob "The Sheriff" Fitzpatrick, Pat "The Man" Moran and Billy "The Kid" Carr. A team does not find young patriots as loyal as these good men.

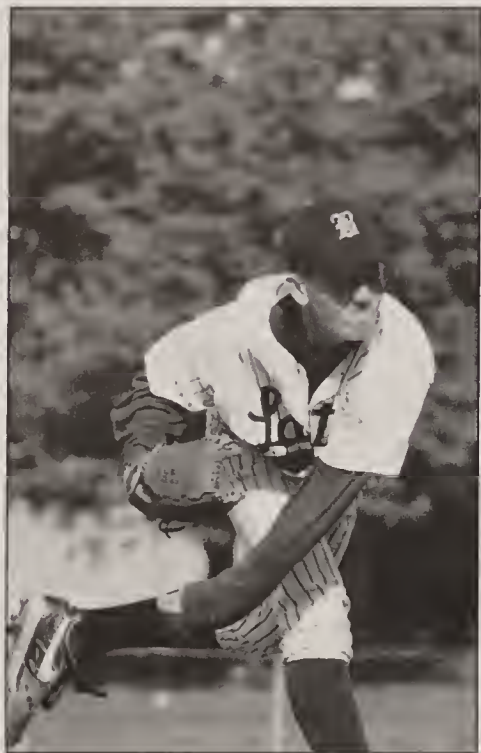
In closing, the team ended the season with an 18-1 record and went as far as the semi-finals in the State Tournament for Division II. After that game "Firey" came up to me and said, "Tomorrow is the start of next year." I hope this team will rebound from that game and do what no ever Boston Latin Men's Hockey team has done before...and we all know what that is.

Wolfpack Baseball Armed and Ready in the DCL

By Ryan Still, I
STAFF WRITER

Do you remember a few months ago when our hockey team was destroying the Dual County League competition? Do you remember how much excitement we got from that? Oh yeah, do you remember how much fun it was when we were all at the tournament games? Well, I have some very good news. That's all going to happen again! Except this time, the boys have put away their sticks and taken out the leather and aluminum.

I'm telling all of you right now, that this year's varsity baseball team is going to be awesome. Despite losing a handful of talented seniors and Miguel Magrass' overwhelming arm and bat, this team is still able to provide from all aspects. The Wolfpack has the offense to put up big time numbers on the scoreboard. And for those of you who like to say that, "You can't win championships without defense", guess what?



Many of the Wolfpack's hopes for the coming season rest on the left arm of Senior Matt Mitchell.

This team provides flawless defense.

Like any other baseball team, it all starts with the pitching. Fortunately for Coach Coleman, the Latin School has some pitchers. Matt Mitchell is a crafty left-hander whose curve ball keeps hitters off balance. Then at any moment he can blow the batter away with his fast ball. Anthony Del Prete uses the exact opposite method. He throws the heat and when the hitter least expects it, he throws his breaking ball. Following Del Prete in the Wolfpack's rotation is senior Mike Brennan. Steven Bingham will also keep opposing hitters on their toes with his great control and ability to use the whole plate. Playing the field behind the pitchers is a strong defensive unit. Pat O'Brien has a quick glove and strong arm in the field, as well as plenty of experience at the plate. The Collins twins have put away their skates from hockey season and have now taken out their cleats. Both of them are reliable in the field and handy with the stick.

As for the offense, look for an astronomical amount of hits and runs to be put on the scoreboard. There's no need to single out any one player when it comes to the offense because everyone on this team is capable of being the person who gets the hit that breaks the game open.

Coach Coleman should have a relaxing and ex-

citing season this year. He has a group of guys who can all play very good baseball. More importantly than that is the chemistry of the team. The players get along very well and it's noticeable on the playing field. This year's team will have a tough assignment to be as good as last year's team which only lost two games but was upset in the State Tournament. Coach Coleman many contributors from last year's squad, including Captain Matt O'Reilly and outfielder Joel Bernazzanni.



Senior Pat O'Brien turns the corner around third and heads for home as part of the Wolfpack's potent offense.



Senior and number one starting pitcher Matt Mitchell steps to the plate and turns on the ball.

However this year's team isn't looking to sit back and get knocked out in the first round. They'll be going far into the tournament and hopefully they'll come out as champions.

Superfan Speaks His Mind...

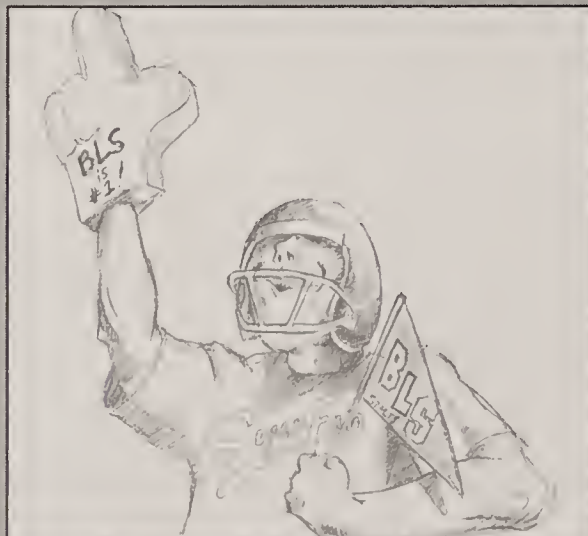
By Michael Donahue, I
STAFF WRITER

I'm sitting here in front of the screen with writer's block, while agonizing over the college decision process, so I thought I would just write down a few short stories and ideas.

To start off we're going to travel back in time to Thursday, March 9, 2000. This was the day of the big game. All day in school everyone was talking about it. The Boys' Hockey team was going up against Franklin in the Division II Semifinals that night at 6pm, and surely Coach Coleman and our school couldn't be that cursed and get knocked out in this round again. In every class, the players and fans watched the minutes and hours tick away. I got home around 3:30 that afternoon, got a quick bite to eat and printed up about 30 signs that said BLS STUDENT SECTION on them. By 4:15, I was on my way to UMass-Boston, thinking I would be the first one there. I arrived at the rink at 5, an hour before face-off, and to my astonishment, there were already about 100 Latin fans there. With the help of a few other hardcore students that had arrived early, we reserved one of the entire middle sections for the students. We were quite a sight to be seen and heard. It was deafening in the rink. I had never seen so many of us so tightly packed together cheering so loud before. There were sixties next to seniors all screaming for our heroes of winter. When Franklin got the empty net goal, everyone around me fell into their seat with their faces buried in their hands. Thirty seconds later, after the teams had shook hands one of our players (couldn't really see who it was) came over and gave us the thumbs up thanking us for being there. The seniors of the team then got a two-minute standing ovation for all of their hard work and the excitement they provided over the last four years. Maybe Coach Coleman with his four hundred wins and our school being cursed, we can

never get past that round, but one thing's for sure the guys on the team were our heroes of winter. They created quite a buzz around the school, and on behalf of everyone I would like to thank them for that. If Ms. Kelley had wanted to show off how "well-behaved," everyone was in the hallways at school, the next day would have been a great example. I have never seen the school so placid and quiet as it was that day. It was like we were at a wake.

Our next story picks up on a happier note. The Girls' Hockey team is the DIVISION II STATE CHAMPION! Being a big hockey fan, I didn't know



Boston Latin School's Superfan

what to expect. I thought the games would be slow paced without much excitement. I was very wrong. The games were fast paced and very exciting. This team, with only one senior, deserves a lot of credit for being kind of forgotten about and overshadowed by other sports and then coming through to win it all. They represented the school very well, and I mean how much better can it get when you're front-page news in the Herald?

We see injuries in sports all of the time, and usually just take it in stride and say boy I hope they're

ok; that is until they hit close to home. In one of the early weeks in February, two freak accidents happened to two of my friends and classmates, a week apart. Maryellen Bingham, one of our track superstars, took the worst fall I have ever seen in the DCL Championships over a hurdle and hit her head on the ground. I was taping the meet at the time and saw it through the video camera. Sparing everyone the details, let's just say we were very worried when she was wheeled out on a stretcher. Fast forward to a week later when I was online and got an email about Kevin Daly being dropped on his head and it being busted open at the wrestling sectionals. I couldn't believe that two people I see everyday had both been hurt so bad. To their credit though, they both were back at it within a week as Kevin (who sports a really "cool" scar over his eye now) went on to the state championship and Maryellen went to the national finals in New York.

Now that I've ranted for a bit too long, here's an ultra quick preview of the spring season. The Girls' Tennis team made it to the final four in the state last year with only 8th and 9th graders! They're early favorites to win the state championship this year being a year older, wiser and stronger.

The Girls' Outdoor Track team, well just like indoor, they're really really good. The Boys' Baseball team lost some key players from they're 19-2 team, but look for them to bounce back and have a decent season. Can't forget to mention the Crew team either, since they've been training since December. It's true just ask me, while waiting for the swim bus we saw them running around in circles or squares I guess, on the first floor!

Rolo, editor-in-chief, dictator, whatever, in case you haven't heard this the pictures were messed up last issue, especially the one in my column. I don't or hope I don't look quite like that. So until next time, by the way thanks to everyone who said they liked my article and congrats to the ARGO Sports section for winning the school paper sports award from Suffolk, this is Superfan signing off.

The Boys Tennis Is Coming Up Aces

By Karyn Rautenberg, II
STAFF WRITER

Every sports team has the potential to be awesome before the season starts, but most people predict a future season by looking at last year's stats and the value of any players the team has lost. Judging by these standards, the Boys' Tennis team is looking pretty good. Remember when they were the "Bob's Sports team of the month" in High School Sports a couple seasons ago? Well, the boys have been striving to get back to that tournament level of play again. Last year, they had to suffer many tough losses in tie-breaking play at second doubles and third singles. These bad breaks cost them a shot at the state tournament, missing the .500 qualifying mark by only one game. The team only lost one Varsity player to graduation, Rob Willison. He played a key position in the number 2



Senior Captain Aaron McCormick reaches low to connect on a backhand shot.

singles. Hopefully someone will step up to that spot for this coming season. Willison "had incredible emotional support for the team. We're all going to have to try and fill in for his candid one-liners and keen sense of humor. He was a pillar of the team for a long time. We all looked up to him, and it was sad to see him go," said one Varsity returnee, Jeremy Jackson.

As for all teams, it is important for the Boys' Tennis team to put a lot into spring training to accentuate their natural talent. The core will consist of veteran Varsity players that include seniors Aaron McCormick and Alexi Nowell and juniors Roger Kueny, Anthony Hamad and Jeremy Jackson. Aaron's colossal height and long arms are well used on the tennis court (as well as basketball court and soccer field), as he is able to reach volleys and hits that would probably be missed by most. Alexi Nowell, a martial arts fanatic, will hopefully have a healthy season without any shoulder injuries in order to play a key role on this determined Wolfpack squad. Roger Kueny uses his muscle on the ten-



The Boys' Tennis team lines up before their dominating victory over Brockton High School..

Victories this season will be the result of hard work and good luck in the health department. The younger players need to become more accustomed to the competitive matches they will be in this season, but there is real talent on the JV squad. The right mentality is the key to all sports. Veterans will do their best to lead the team and win those tie-breaking matches that have hurt the team in the past. Success is on the horizon, and the Boys' Tennis Team is heading in the right direction.

nis court as a lefty "powerhouse," and is a great asset to the team. Anthony Hamad, is a "mini-powerhouse" that will surely help the team. Jeremy Jackson is a great kid with a really fun personality, but watch out when he steps on the court, his focus is on the match. The smile comes for all after a team victory.

Victories this season will be the result of hard work and good luck in the health department.

Girls Tennis Back In The Swing of Things

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER

In Dorchester, there is a tennis club. It is in the middle of a big, slightly green, empty field. The club has been an oasis for young tennis players in the city, especially for the young group of girls from Boston Latin. In case you haven't noticed, our school has had an incredible upsurge in the last two or three years of young, talented female tennis players. Almost all of them have grown up on the courts of Sportsmen's tennis club, and have now made it their goal to represent their school, playing over-funded suburban teams. The Sportsmen's coaching staff is well-represented in this strong team of young women, and very proud of what they have produced. The club has helped the players progress over the years by encouraging year round play in tournaments, and clinics held during the week. This is what has mainly helped the team perfect their games, and reach this level of play.

Coming off of undoubtedly the best season any Latin Tennis team has had, they are looking to the State Title. With the youngest team in the DCL, the varsity team is composed of four freshmen, three sophomores, and one junior. The positions to be played are still in the air, as the girls are all in close competition with each other, and haven't been able to finish any challenge matches through the second week of practices. Sophomore captain Erin Fleming has her eyes set once again on the number one singles spot, in which she has played for the last 3 years. Freshmen Sarah Redd and Jennifer Seide are posing threats to slip into one of the top singles positions after having an unbelievable year together last year at first doubles. Freshman Kasia Preneta is fighting once again for one of the top singles positions, while the pre-season matchups are gradually determining the line up for the upcoming season. Preneta also found great success at her position of third singles last year, helping the team along the way to its Eastern Massachusetts Title. Sophomore Gabriela Perez-Holbrecker and Freshman Rohini Khouri-Babulal are another couple looking to

move up on the squad, along with a few newcomers who have already secured J.V. positions. B-sie Sophomore Janna Bartoloni is contending this year for the number one singles position once again. With Junior Monet Duncan thrown into the picture once again, returning from a season of rest, the team is in close competition at every position. This close competition has created a formula for success, which has been helped along by the great camaraderie and sportsmanship of the team.

With only limited court time in the pre-season, because of Sportsmen's flourishing indoor programs, the team has had some difficulty making sure that all the Junior Varsity players get their share of court time. Both the boys' and girls' coaches have been working hard to make sure all players are accounted for during the practices. The girls' incredible dedication to the sport, and to the team has brought the girls' team to the top of their league, and promises to take them even further this year. So if you've never met one of these phenomenal athletes, go see them play some time this year. You'll be amazed.

Sailing Team Stands Poised

By Christopher Coletta, II
STAFF WRITER

For the average person, the first word that pops into mind when someone mentions varsity athletics might be football or basketball.

The Boston Latin School corps of sailors are hardly average.

Instead of strapping on helmets or sliding on shin guards, these able seamen and seawomen don their personal floatation devices, or PFDs as the sailing jargon goes. The team is fully staffed and ready to take on their suburban adversaries in a race upwind to the finish line.

Under the guidance of their new coach and seasoned veteran, Sean Gass, the team has high hopes of capturing the league title. The squad's captains, senior Matt Spillane and sophomore Jessie Naimark-Rouse, are poised to lead this band of veterans and new recruits alike to glory on the high seas.

Although it would be funny to see them practicing their maneuvers on the Muddy River, they choose to take advantage of the Charles River's accessibility and historic beauty. Over 20 school sailing teams and countless other school sailing clubs call Community Boating, Inc., home. The boathouse, situated directly behind the Hatch Shell on Storow Drive, has a fleet of nearly a hundred Cape Cod Mercurys, or, as the program's participants lovingly call them, bathtubs with a 2X4 and a bedsheet. Despite the class' shortcomings,

the more experienced sailors can test their abilities sailing the fleet of 420s, a more responsive vessel.

As with any sport, the team industriously practices every day, putting in at least 2 hours on the water. Its members hail from every grade and most have had several years of experience.

"We're going to practice several days over the vacation to sharpen our skills, like starting, mark rounding and the downwind leg," said Gass. "We have a good group. They have potential."

Well, look alive, you sailors! Throw up the jib, practice those roll tacks, drop the centerboard, tighteten the outhaul, loosen the boom vang, and never crash gybe. We'll be cheering you all on from the banks of the river.

Sports Spotlight



Mary Ellen Bingham

By Erin Burke, II
STAFF WRITER

She's got a talent.

Not just any old talent, but an athletic ability that has served as an aid for climbing the ladder of success during her high school career. Once Maryellen Bingham steps on a track or a runway, very few are able to step in her path and capture first. Winning has become almost a second nature to her, and her reputation has spread far, making her notorious for it.

After joining the Outdoor Track team in the ninth grade, Maryellen soon became one of the most valuable members on the team. From never having jumped before, she qualified for states in the triple jump the very first time she attempted it. Also that year, she won the D.C.L. Championship as a freshman, beginning the setting of her mark that everyone soon noticed. She has continued her reign as D.C.L. Champion during her sophomore and junior years as well and hopes to top it off with a win as a senior.

Victory has not been limited within the Duel County League, but rather statewide. Maryellen, in only her second year of jumping, took home the title of Class A Massachusetts State Champion. Also, she has competed in and won the Bay State Games the previous two years. Continuing her success last summer, Maryellen qualified for the Junior Olympics in Omaha, Nebraska and finished 14th in the nation.

Although Maryellen certainly shines in the triple jump, her abilities do not end there. During outdoor season she remains a solid contributor to the team in the 200 meters, the 100 meter hurdles and the long jump.

During Indoor Track, Maryellen has earned some more titles to add to her collection. Besides the long jump [triple jump is not an event during the winter], which she was fourth in the Class A as a junior, she is also a valuable member of the 4 X 400 relay. This relay has experienced continuous success, including being 3rd in New England in 1999, 2nd in New England this year and having competed at nationals the past two years as well. Also, in addition to the long jump and the relay, Maryellen has been strong in the 300 meters and the 55-meter hurdles.

Giving up diving, after having done it for two years and qualifying for the Sectional meet her sophomore year, was a tough decision to make, but it's proved to be a wise one. Maryellen devoted her fall to working on techniques for jumping and getting into shape for her 6-month track streak. Balancing track with a heavy workload and the stress added on to seniors waiting to know their destiny next year isn't always easy, but Maryellen ["Mellen"] has done it thus far with ease. Even though she is uncertain about where she shall be attending college next year, she is certain on one thing: track will definitely be a part of her life. When you're the girl with the talent, how could it not be.

Track Team Off and Running

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITER

With only a couple weeks before their first meet, the track team has been out running, training for another promising season. March 20, the energy-filled squad took back to the Fens, running, jogging, stretching, and sprinting. The coaches are looking forward to another successful season, as are all of the team members. This spring season coming right after the girls' indoor team winning the state championships, the team is looking optimistically at this upcoming season.

The daily practices begin with stretches, and flexibility drills. The stretches lead into some light jogging, and basic running drills. The hurdlers, and jumpers then go off and do separate drills designed by the coaches specifically for leaping. After these basic drills, the routine differs from day to day. Each runner begins to work on specific weaknesses as the season goes on, trying to cut down times day by day. With the help of the coaches, they are able to narrow down their problems, and improve week by week. Some have set individual goals for times to reach by the end of the season, but in all cases the overall success of the team comes first. It is the team's great dedication to each other that has brought them such great success in the past, and they hope to keep up this camaraderie during the next season.

The girls' team has a strong core returning who all ran for the State Champion indoor team this winter. One advantage the girls' team has is that they already know pretty much who will be running what events for this year. This is what the spring line up is starting to look like: Contributing at the triple jump, and hurdles, will be Alexis Heos, MaryEllen Bingham, Erin Burke, and Marryanne Porter. Running in the 4x400, as it looks so far, will be Marryanne Porter, Tasheka Folkes, Victoria Folayan, and Aisha Court. Switching off for the 1 and 2 mile distance runs will be Shana Gearty, Sue Byrne, and Rachel Racusen. Aisha Court also will be doing the high jump, and the 100m race. Sarah Shiggs-Quiroga will be doing the long jump, and the 100m dash with Aisha. Other runners whose events haven't yet been determined are Bridget Butler, Stephanie Johnson, and Tam Pham.

The boys' team is led by a core of seniors: Alex Bien-Aime, Mike Lyons, and Tim McDonald,, who are now the veterans of the team. With Bien-Aime running the 200 meter, and the long jumps, and McDonald throwing shotput and discus, the team hopes

to improve as the season progresses. These three guys are also looking at the season as a chance to train some of the younger players, so that the team will improve year by year.

The coaches of the track team are by far its greatest asset for learning, and improving day by day. "Mr. Darocha really knows what he's talking about," says Alexis Heos, senior runner. The sense you get from the runners when they talk about Mr. DaRocha is that he is very motivational, well spoken, and willing to take on any problem with his runners. Being an elite runner himself, he has great experience in field and track, and has been an incredible help for the team. He gets the runners to strive harder and harder by encouraging them to set very high goals and standards for themselves. Mrs. Pritchard, who is also a P.E. and Health teacher at the school, is on the coaching staff of the track team. She is very caring, and health conscientious for the sake of the team members. Her focus is that the team always give 100% of their effort, and not



Captain Maryanne Porter sprints the final turn in a leg of the 4x400m relay from the Indoor Tracks.

so much winning. She has found the role of focusing the team before each meet. Mr. McCollum is the jumping and hurdling coach for the team.

He has had lots of experience in the field as well and offers great new methods of getting the runners to concentrate on their technique. Because of the extreme importance of technique in the jumping and hurdling events, his use of physics and science in his teaching methods is very unique and extremely helpful.

As a whole, the track team is looking to tear it up this spring season. They have high expectations coming off of such a great winter, and with their three excellent coaches, they are looking to improve upon their every weakness, in order to take their youth to the next level. After having such a successful winter, the teams are looking to use this season mainly to help their younger players improve so that they'll be ready for the next few seasons. Their determination to success should make for some great showings out on the field.

Serve, Set, Spike!

By Timothy McDonald, I
SPORTS EDITOR

What do you expect from a team that held voluntary practices on Friday nights during the Fall? The Boys Volleyball team is, by any measure, an incredible dedicated lot. Add to that hard work and dedication a large dose of talent, and you have the makings of an excellent recipe for team success.

The team which, has only two starters returning from last year's squad, is looking to rebound from a devastating 1999 State Tournament loss to Cambridge Rindge and Latin. This year's squad, despite the loss of those seniors, has set its sights high for a return trip

to the State Tournament.

The starting six, all seniors but one, function as a well oiled machine on the court. Ben Yuen, Huy Pham, Eddie Lau, Shi Wen Li, and Cuong Tran are all starters, as is eighth grader Chris Lennon. Coming off the bench to provide a serving spark is Robert Orthman. Also coming off the bench is Paul Hourihan, Steven Yee, Andy Li, as Coach Kai Yuen keeps his players constantly rotating throughout the game.

The Team's Seventh Man, the first sub off the bench, Rob Orthman had this to say about the team, "We are going to have a great season this year. With all of the talented seniors and Coach Kai's tutelage, we're gonna improve on last season." Senior starter Huy Pham was even more optimistic. "We're going to the playoffs! Everybody has potential, we know our weaknesses, we have to work together and keep improving."

The team stood 5-1 at press time with their only loss coming to Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Included in their five victories were two thrilling come from behind wins over Latin Academy and Lincoln-Sudbury in front of a supportive home crowd. As each game passes, the team tunes up to play as a cohesive unit during the strenuous DCL regular season.

This team, which practices daily until six PM, is a team full of dedicated and athletic players. The key to the Wolfpack's season, however, lies in team chemistry, which the team is bubbling over with. Look for the Boys Volleyball team to go far this year on the strength of their athleticism, dedication, and chemistry.



Senior Ben Yuen watches as two teammates stuff the spike from a Catholic Memorial player.

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All Oars in the Water for Crew

By Jeremy Jackson, II
STAFF WRITERS

Since the early weeks of the new millennium, the crew team has been working out together, insuring this season's success. Hitting the weights and tracks without a coach, this year's team members have been dedicated to making themselves more prepared this season than ever. They have also spent some time in the pre-season finding equipment for the spring. In the past, the team's practices have been hindered by a lack of sufficient equipment, but they are planning ahead and this year is sure to pay off. The enthusiasm the team has shown in the pre-season is sure to bring about great success for the team this year.

Having just found new coaches for this season, the team is more enthusiastic than ever about their upcoming competitions. New coaches Melissa Perone and Shannon Corner, with their connections in the local rowing community, have been a great help in finding facilities at Northeastern, and also finding the team much needed equipment. With two new (used) boats, a set of oars, and the opportunity to borrow another one from Community Boating Inc., the team seems to be all set with equipment. The new coaches are students at Northeastern, who have rowed on the competitive Northeastern team for four years already, but due to NCAA regulations are not allowed to row in their fifth year of college.

This year, the pre-season practices have been



The Crew team is ready to embark on another day of strenuous rowing on the Charles River.

a time for making cuts, which has been different than past years. With Coach Costello's new regulations on the team size, the new coaches have had to dwindle the team's size down from 26 to 22. The decision on how to go about doing this has been a tough one for senior captains Molly Dinsmore and Karen Malone. The captains and coaches are trying to find out if there is still a possibility that the team might be able to keep the extra four rowers.

With all their work in the preseason, and the encouraging prospects of their new coaches, the team looks to rise to the top of the league this year. The team looks to bring a great attitude to their practices, and hopes to have that attitude show in their races. Spurred on by the desire to compete, the girls' crew team is coming into the season with the perfect mind set, backed up by the best of preparation.

Softball Steps up to the Plate

By Liz Maher, I
STAFF WRITER

The days are getting warmer. The parks are filling up with children. The rivers are lined with runners and bicycles. Spring is well on the way to becoming hot summer days. In New England, this all means a temporary relief from raw, cold depressing days. It also means baseball. Ah, the great American pastime, in full swing for yet another interesting season. With many eyes focused on the showcase of this year's talent in Florida, we at Latin do not have to look so far. The Boston Latin Softball team, while obviously not on the same par as the majors, is looking as good in the DCL as our beloved Sox are looking in the AL.

Latin softball, like the Sox, has a recent history of success, but not to the point of a championship. This year, the girls hope things will be different. Experience is the key factor in the outcome of this season. With all but five of the squad returning, the players know well the hard pitching and power hitting of the varsity level. However, what troubles captains Jill Villani and Meghan Nelligan is that All Star catcher Amy Erlandson, along with most of the starting infield, comprise the five no longer playing.

Leadership therefore falls into the hands not only of the captains, but also to last year's pitchers, senior Lauren Smyth and our own Pedro, sophomore sensation Jackie Coffey. This year Coffey hopes to eclipse the 100+ strikeouts she had as a freshman. Both righties have experience at the varsity and club levels, and the rest of the girls feel confident playing behind them.

Offensively, Latin is led by junior third baseman Karyn Rautenberg and senior outfielder Nelligan. The squad will rely heavily on contributions from the bench and from returning players, such as seniors Carolyn Czopar, Claire McCarrick, Megann McCarthy and sophomore Annemarie Fatalia.

But good coaching is key in getting the girls ready for the season and in getting them to the tourna-

ment. Second year skipper Jack Morris is more than prepared to handle this task. With twenty girls on the team, there is no question that the talent is there. What is important is fostering a team spirit and getting the girls to fully employ their athletic prowess every time they are on the field.

As Meghan Nelligan said, "We work well together as a team, which helps us in the field, but hitting is individual, and each player has their strengths. We just need to pull it all together, to pull together as a team."

What helps this sense of team and unity more than anything else is rivalry. Concord Carlisle, recent DCL champs, always inspires intense play in the Latin girls. The games between the Pack and the Patriots are tight and full of emotion. Similarly, Acton Boxborough, a school that produces skilled athletes like a factory, is expected to bring their best to every game. Tensions always run high when A-B and Latin meet. Without knowing exactly how each league competitor looks this year, it's hard to say where the Wolfpack will stand. Under the direction of Morris and with senior leadership, the team is optimistic about the season.

Optimism is a staple here in Red Sox nation. It allows diehard fans to think every spring that this is the year for the Sox, this is the year to break the curse. It doesn't let fans give up on the team if there isn't a winning record right away. The softball team is well aware of the power of optimism and patience.

The early part of the season will be a time of adjustment. Morris plans to switch positions and try out different batting orders until the right combination is found. This is why team unity is so important. The girls know they need to be comfortable with everyone, able to play with one teammate just as easily as the next. With hard work and dedication the girls are confident that they will be a contender in every game.

So Latin softball is not exactly the Boston Red Sox, but these girls have the same passion and intensity for their

sport as do the pros over at Fenway. If everything falls into place, Coffey and Smith throw well, the field is in synch and the batting order brings in runs, it will be a testament to the spirit and optimism of the squad. So stop over at Daisy field some time and take in a game. It's cheaper than going to a Sox game, and you might even see the home team win.



The Wolfpack Softball team is ready to step up to the plate and hammer the competition.

Sports Spotlight



Aaron McCormick

By Andrea Alessi, I
LAYOUT EDITOR

All politically correct terminology aside, I am short. I am not in denial. I have come to accept the fact and for the most part, I tend to ignore the way my five foot zero inch stature sizes up to nearly everyone I encounter. In the event that you know Boston Latin athlete, Aaron McCormick, you can tell where this is going. For those of you who *don't* know the triple-lettering scholar, let's just say he and I make for an interesting comparison. He looms seventeen inches above me, takes one step to my every three, can use my head as an arm rest, and darn it, he makes me feel really, really small.

Obviously, there is more to Aaron than his six and a half feet. He is also an impressive athlete, lettering in all three BLS sport seasons. He began his high school athletic career as a sixie, playing varsity tennis during the spring season. Playing doubles in the ninth and tenth grades, Aaron was named a DCL All-Star and received the Coach's Award for tennis both years. As a sophomore, he reached the state sectionals for doubles, losing only to the state-champions-to-be in a close three set match. As a junior Aaron held the position of Co-Captain of the tennis team and was awarded the title of MVP in a year in which the team made impressive improvements from previous years. Team captain this year as well, Aaron hopes to lead team into another successful season.

This past winter season, Aaron started in his second year of Varsity basketball as a center, following years on the freshmen and JV teams. Nicknamed "Krebs" by teammates, Aaron is frequently confused with team captain and look-alike, Mike Young.

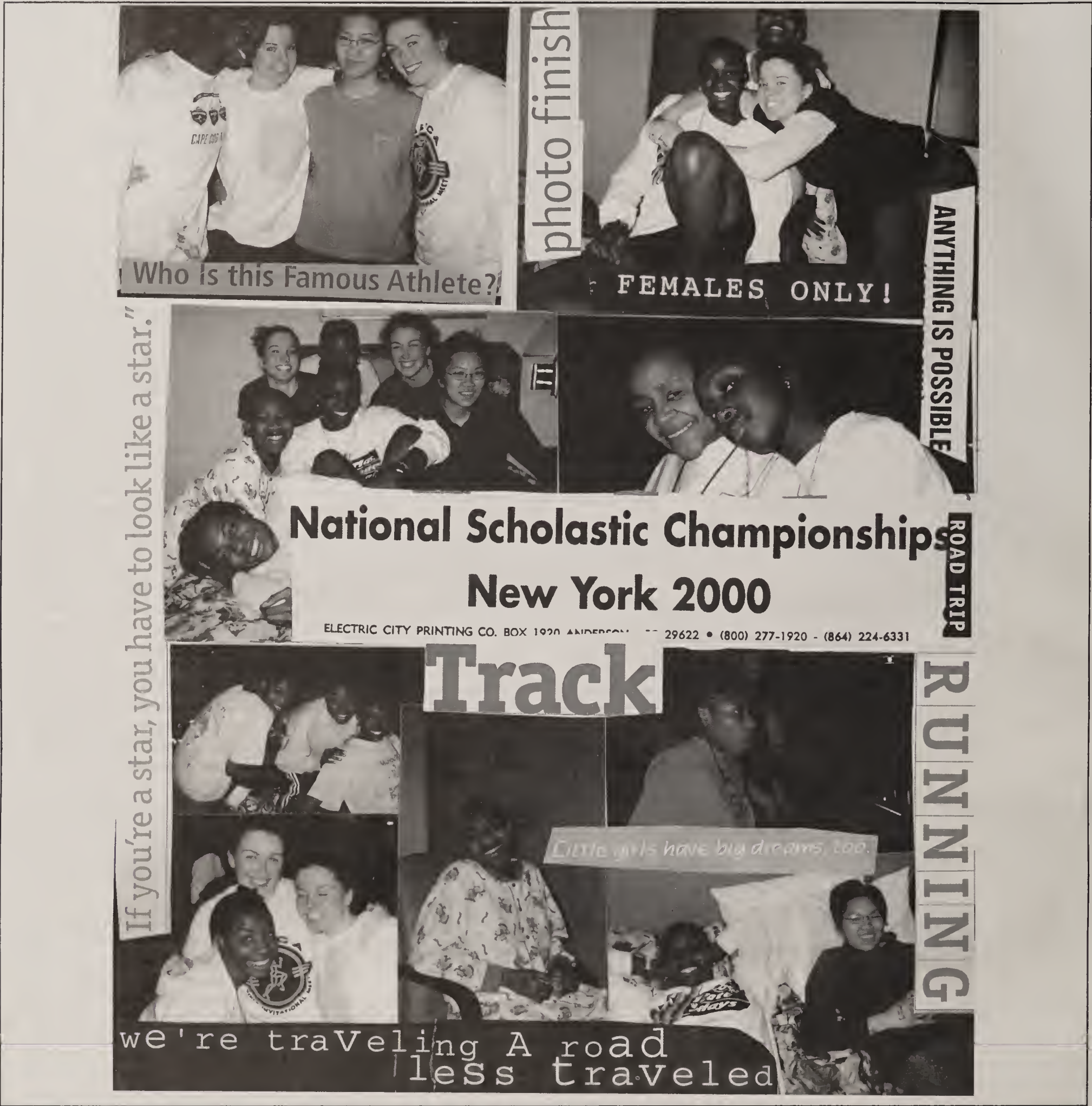
In the Fall Aaron trades in his racquet and basketball jersey, putting his foot coordination and skills to use with the soccer ball. Aaron started Latin School soccer in the eighth grade on the JV team but moved onto Varsity as a freshman. Junior year he was presented with the Coach's Award for soccer. As a senior, he was selected as one of three captains and received a DCL All-Star honorable mention. Due to a sprained ankle early on in the season, however, Aaron was off the field for twelve games, yet he continued to offer his support and leadership skills from the sidelines. Impressively, he came back scoring the winning goal in the last five minutes of the 1-0 game against Wayland.

Apart from his career as a Boston Latin School athlete, Aaron is involved in extracurricular sport activities. He helps teach and coach tennis at Sportsman's Club in Dorchester for inner city children. Over the summer he has worked as a soccer coach/counselor at BLS coach Sewall's "Soccer Tech" camp as well. Next year he plans to play tennis in college.

But Aaron is not *only* an accomplished athlete. When he is not participating in sport related activities, Aaron can be found managing four AP classes, flirting with girls, reading submissions for the *Register*, or playing piano (a talent he has been cultivating for twelve years). He is also a member of the German Club, the infamous Rugby Club, and Rhythmology. Last summer Aaron worked in town as a Ward Fellow and presently he is involved in the Seevak Facing History Award website competition. Talk about well rounded, this kid does it all. And on top of all that, he manages to be a great friend and a fascinating person, always willing to offer comfort or advice.

So the next time you are looking for this reporter, you'll know where I am. Just look for the big tall, talented, grinning All-Star walking through the halls. I'll be the one under his elbow.

National Track Championships Collage



Photos and Collage by Mary Ellen Bingham, I

Lady Wolfpack Track Runs at Nationals

By Aisha Cort, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When people ask us how it went, the first thing most of us say is, "I had to wake up at 5:00 AM!" But then we go on to talk about the trip, the food (my favorite), the jokes and, oh yeah, the running.

On March 11, Maryellen Bingham, Stephanie Johnson, Aisha Cort, Tam Pham, Tasheka Folkes and Victoria Folyan piled into a mini-van and a station wagon to make the trip to New York City, the Bronx to be exact, to compete in the National Scholastic Track and Field Championship, a 3 day event sponsored by the US Track and Field

Association. You know what that means, stiff competition, tougher than we faced at the Class A's, States, and New Englands put together. But there was no fear. Well, maybe just a little . . .

On Day One, a 4x200m Relay team consisting of senior Stephanie Johnson, junior Aisha Cort, sophomore Tasheka Folkes and freshman Victoria Folyan stepped onto the track. It just all went by so fast, so fast that the runners became just blurs and gusts of wind. But when all was said and done, we had run our fastest relay time all year and placed 18th out of a national field of thirty-six.

Day Two marked the end of the festivities and our 4x400m Relay, which was run by juniors Tam Pham and Aisha Cort, and seniors Mary Ellen Bingham and Maryanne Porter (also known as Porterhouse). The 4x400m Relay is often referred to as

the toughest of all relays because it is a combination of speed endurance and a hard, fast-paced race. It was both of those, but the girls held their own and represented BLS well.

Individually we each had great seasons, so the main goal of Nationals was to bring all that energy together and perform as a team. As most athletes know, your teammates become your second family so it was only natural that from the beginning of the season we supported each other and provided shoulders to cry on and reassuring words in the face of nerves and defeat. Amidst competitors from New York City, Philadelphia, California and Florida, we, the BLS girls, rose to the occasion and left New York with smiles on our faces, sweat on our brows and memories to last a lifetime.